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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this book, written by a retired law enforcement officer, is to educate the public about drunk drivers, drinking drivers, and high-speed driving, in an effort to prevent injury, death, and suffering. It is intended to be an instructional manual and a practical, common-sense survival guide for the average individual. National statistics are presented on the prevalence of fatal accidents caused by drunk driving. Suggestions are made on how to spot and report a drunk driver, defensive driving and accident prevention, legislative issues pertinent to drinking and driving, and how to become actively involved in preventing drunk driving by social action. (JD)

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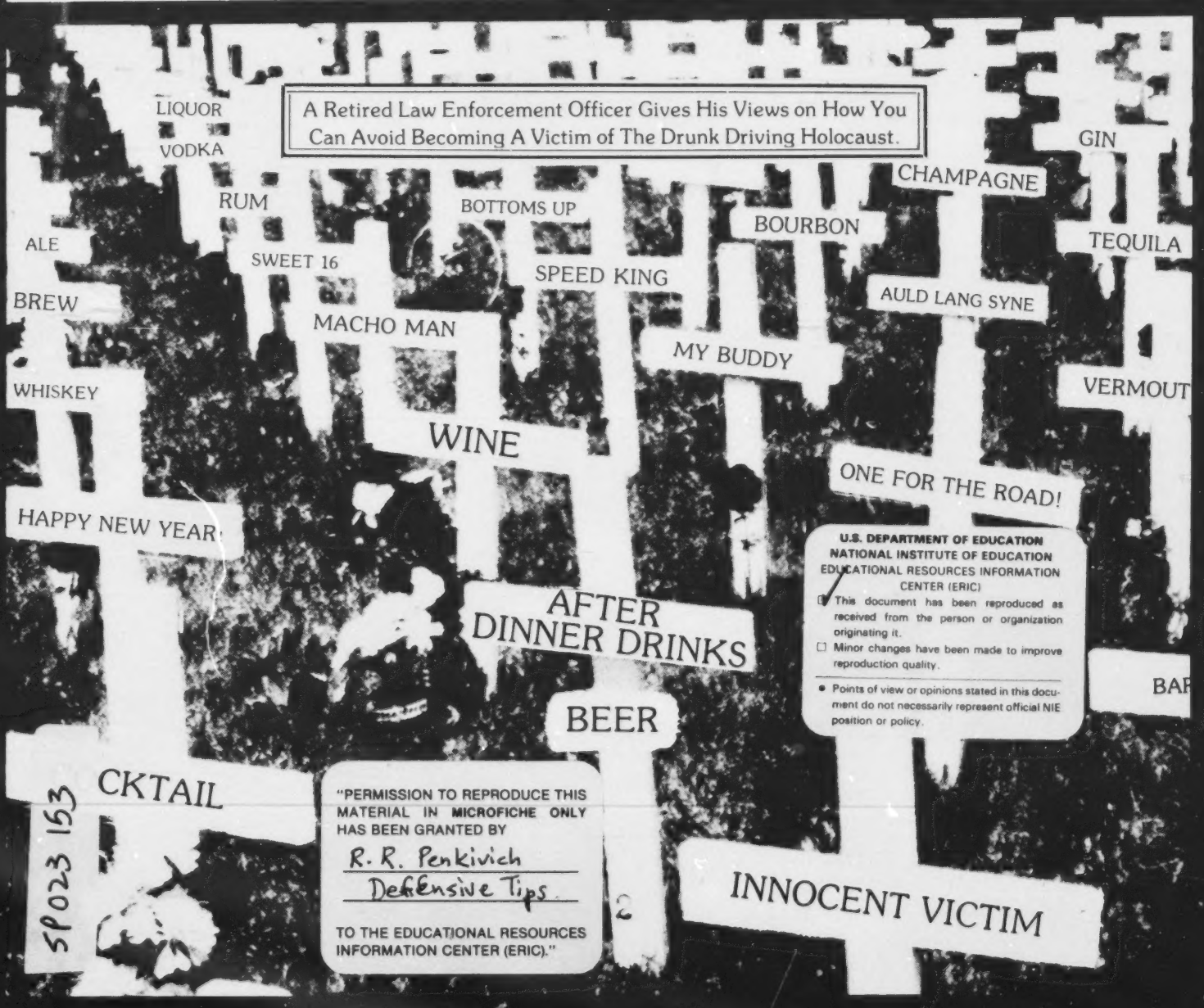
DEFENSIVE TIPS IN THE war AGAINST DRUNK DRIVERS

By: Robert R. Penkivich



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D E D I C A T I O N

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Lorraine L. Gagnon

1927 - 1983

Dedicated to my friend who died of a massive coronary on April 2, 1983 and never lived to see the finished copy...For her assistance in publishing this article...For words of encouragement...For sympathy expressed to those families who lost their loved ones in the drunk driving holocaust...For being a loving wife and mother and sharing her concern about saving the lives of all of your children...We remember Lorraine with the hope that someday the death and suffering caused by drunk drivers is at an end.

N O T I C E

All of the information contained in DEFENSIVE TIPS IN THE WAR AGAINST DRUNK DRIVERS contains no guarantees. The information is only intended to provide insight and to be used as a guideline to help save you and your loved ones' lives. Each and every situation is different. You can expect the drunk driver to do the unexpected, so learn to think defensively.

****

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP IN THE WAR AGAINST DRUNK DRIVERS?

The key to solving the drunk driving problem is PERSISTENCE! Write letters to your State and Federal Legislators requesting tougher laws against drunk drivers and additional funding for law enforcement. Keep on writing those letters and report drunk drivers when you see them. Community-oriented policing does work! Please support all of the organizations working to end the Drunk Driving Holocaust.

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PREFACE

The purpose of this article is to EDUCATE the public about drunk drivers, drinking drivers, and high-speed driving, with the end result being the PREVENTION of injury, death, and suffering caused by drunk drivers and high-speed driving.

It is the hope of the author to help eliminate a National Disgrace and rid the Nation of the fear of drunk drivers and high-speed caused fatalities.

Examples used in the book are not intended to single out any one specific agency, company, organization, individual, or group of individuals. The examples used are intended to enlighten the public, the end result being the saving of lives.

This book is intended to be used as an INSTRUCTION MANUAL and as a PRACTICAL COMMON SENSE SURVIVAL GUIDE for the average individual. A great amount of important pertinent information has been collected and compiled in an easy-to-read format.

The concept behind this writing is to present an INFORMATIONAL BOOK based upon both the victim and the patrolmen who work the alcohol-speed-related traffic collisions. Some victims make critical errors and die. Most patrolmen utilize safety precautions and survive out on our highways. Many of the precautions that patrolmen take are the result of what they learned from the victims. It is the actions of the victims and patrolmen that is of vital importance to everyone who uses our highways. The ability to LISTEN and learn from the experience of others is also of vital importance. Survival depends on knowing what to do in an emergency and how quickly you respond in order to avoid death or injury. Alcohol impairs your ability to respond quickly and lessens your chances for survival.

The author is not writing with the authority of any agency nor is he representing any organization. The opinions expressed are solely those of the author exercising his rights as a citizen of the United States of America.

F A C T S

1. Drunk Drivers kill an average of 26,000 Americans each year; 70 per day; one every 21 minutes (one teenager dies every 1 hour 43 minutes).

2. Drunk Drivers injure an average of one million Americans each year (includes estimate of minor injuries).

3. Drunk Drivers have killed over 250,000 Americans in the past ten years.

4. Drunk Drivers have injured over ten million Americans in the past ten years (includes estimate of minor injuries).

5. Drunk Drivers have established a consistent pattern of death, injury, and suffering over the past sixty years. i.e. 55% of all traffic collisions are alcohol-related.

6. Politicians, lawyers, judges, district attorneys, police, and the law have failed to alter a continuing consistent pattern of death, injury, and suffering until 1982.

7. Drunk Drivers cost taxpayers approximately $24 billion in damages each year.

8. Drunk Driving is the greatest en masse human rights violation in existence in the United States today.

9. A Drunk Driver's chance of being arrested is approximately 1 in 2000. This in essence means the odds are against society and with him.

10. Drunk Driving is the greatest cause of death among American Servicemen today.

11. Past statistics prove that Drunk Driving cannot be cured by law enforcement alone. The public has to be made more aware of the problem and we all have to make an individual effort to solve the problem.

12. A conservative Drunk Driving casualty estimate for the last twenty years of this century (1980 - 2000) indicates 500,000 to be killed and 20,000,000 to be injured at an estimated cost of $3.6 trillion.

13. <u>DRUNK DRIVING IS NO ACCIDENT</u> ! Drunk Drivers create their own condition and rely on the public attitude of judges and juries in order to escape the consequences of their actions.

14. In the past ten years 6,500,000 families have been affected by the loss of a loved one due to an alcohol-related traffic fatality.

15. Alcohol causes more damage than cigarettes (Lethal Product) but the government places warning labels on cigarettes and not on alcoholic beverages. Estimates are that cigarettes rank #1 killing approximately 150,000 Americans each year and alcohol ranks #2 killing approximately 100,000. (Sweden is campaigning to eliminate cigarettes. They are currently charging over $2 a pack; it is illegal to sell them in vending machines; it will soon be illegal to sell them in food stores. Intelligent leadership wants to be rid of the lethal product in 20 years).

16. The law does not reflect the lethal potential of Drunk Driving. Homicide and Manslaughter are polite, legal, clean, clinical terminology that does not tell the reality of violent death in regards to Drunk Driving. Drunk Driving is in fact MURDER !

17. Industrial casualties of alcohol in 1975 ranged from 12,600 deaths to 2,200,000 injuries.

18. Alcohol has been implicated in approximately 44% of civilian aviation crashes.

19. Alcohol is implicated in approximately 69% of drownings.

20. Alcohol is implicated in approximately 83% of fire fatalities and 62% of all fire burns.

21. Alcohol is implicated in food asphyxiation deaths, hypothermia, frost injuries and deaths, snowmobile injuries, and tractor deaths.

22. California has the lowest alcoholic beverage taxes in the nation. Wine...$.01 per gallon...established in 1937...national average $.51.....Beer...$.04 per gallon...established in 1959...national average $.19.

23. The new Drunk Driving laws in California are reducing highway fatalities and lowering the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

24. Speeding motorists have established a consistent pattern of death, injury, and suffering over the past sixty years.

25. There were 23,000 speed-related fatalities last year. (This includes part of the 26,000 alcohol-related fatalities).

26. There were over 8,000,000 speeding tickets issued for each of the past four years for exceeding the 55 mph speed limit.

27. Speeding cars and high-speed cars are a highly significant contributing factor in alcohol-related traffic fatalities and fatalities in general.

28. The alcoholic beverage industry is over a $20 billion a year industry which spends more than $1,000,000,000 ($1 billion) in advertising their products. In 1981 they spent approximately $300 million on T.V. advertising beer. Approximately 5000 beer ads and 600 wine ads were shown on Network T.V. in 1977.

29. Distillers in 1981 paid $273.2 million for advertising to newspapers and magazines.

30. About 95.3% of young adults (18-25) have tried alcoholic beverages and 75.9% of young adults use alcoholic beverages.

31. Cars are being built smaller and weaker. Big trucks are being built larger and stronger resulting in more traffic fatalities.

32. It is estimated that traffic fatalities will increase by 5,000 by the year 1990 due to the weaker construction of certain vehicles.

33. Reaganomics is easing safety restrictions which will benefit BIG BUSINESS.

34. The automotive industry is over a $74 billion a year industry. They spend over $2 billion a year advertising.

35. The 25-34-year-olds account for more liquor consumption than does any other segment of the population. Alcohol-related traffic fatalities are the leading cause of death for 15-34-year-olds.

36. Education is the single-most important contributing factor in bringing about change and ending the SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE MURDER on our highways. The grass-roots organizations, in creating a greater awareness, should receive the most credit for bringing about the change that we are realizing today. The UNITED EFFORT of every individual and organization in the country can bring about a total change. Every individual who meets his/her individual responsibility should be commended.

37. Unexpected, traumatic injuries are responsible for more than 100,000 deaths in the United States each year. The AMA supports passive restraints, such as air bags, in autos. Wear your seat belt.

38. Alcohol creates poor vision. i.e. Poor focus, reduction of visual acuity, double vision, faulty depth perception, poor peripheral vision, reduction in night vision, and distorted color vision. The State of Wisconsin at one time had one of the best common sense laws in the Nation (Prior to the 55 mph National Speed Limit). i.e. Daytime speed limit was 65 mph and right below each of those signs they had a reflectorized sign that read "55 mph Night Speed." Slow down during the hours of darkness.

39. Alcohol damages unborn babies. This is referred to as the "Fetal Alcohol Syndrome" (FAS). Alcohol damages the adult brain and it also damages the brain of a developing child.

40. A drinking driver increases his probability of being involved in a traffic collision. My estimates, based upon my research and my experience, indicate that at .04 your probability has increased by 100% and at .10 your probability has increased by 1000%.

41. BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVELS FOR LEGAL INTOXICATION:

    .03 Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and East Germany.

    .05 Norway, Iceland, Poland, and Yugoslavia.

    .08 Great Britain, Switzerland, Austria, and France.

    .10 United States.

42. .10 means one part of alcohol to 1000 parts of blood.

43. INCREASED DANGER FROM USING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: Increased danger of liver problems; increased danger of hypertension; increased danger of cancer of the digestive tract; possibility of serious side effects when used in conjunction with other drugs; possibility of fetal damage; and impairment of intellectual capacities.

44. Visual acuity is affected at doses as low as .02%.

45. Perceptual and attentive mechanisms are affected after one drink.

46. Three million (3,000,000) American teenagers admit to having problems associated with alcohol. Many of their parents deny even obvious symptoms of problem drinking.

47. An estimated 10 million Americans are alcoholics.

48. It is estimated that 75% of the American population drinks alcoholic beverages.

49. Drinking is learned behavior.

50. Approximately 70% (164,000) of all DUI convictions in 1981 in the State of California were first offenses.

51. Approximately 27% (62,324) of all DUI convictions in 1981 in the State of California resulted in multiple-offender actions: alcohol treatment programs (SB38), suspension or revocation.

52. Approximately 64% (40,081) of multiple DUI offenders receive mandatory license suspension or revocation (CA-1981).

53. Approximately 36% (22,243) of the total DUI offenders are referred to SB38 alcohol treatment programs and 19% (4,304) of those referred are reported NOT to have completed the program (CA-1981).

54. Approximately 8% (24,748) of those arrested for DUI in California in 1981 refused the chemical test for blood-alcohol-concentration.

55. Approximately 93% (23,000) of those who refused the chemical test had their license suspended for six months under the Implied Consent Law (13353 CVC) (CA-1981).

56. Approximately 70% (233,803) of those arrested for driving-under-the-influence are convicted of that offense (CA-1981).

57. There were 332,413 DUI arrests in the State of California in 1981 (326,458 Misdemeanor and 5,955 Felony).

58. It is estimated that up to 10% of all drivers on weekend nights are legally intoxicated (.10 and above).

59. A nine state survey of eastern states showed a 28% reduction in fatalities in the 18-20-year-old age group when the drinking age was raised to 21.

60. A highway fatality occurs every 10 minutes. A highway injury occurs every 8 seconds.

61. Over 20 million drivers are on America's highways without valid licenses. These problem drivers are over-represented in serious traffic collisions.

62. On October 25, 1982 President Reagan signed the NATIONAL DRIVER REGISTER/DRUNK DRIVING BILL. It will help to identify suspended or revoked drivers nationwide.

63. It is common practice in the legal profession to work to reduce drunk driving charges to reckless driving charges (Less of a social stigma attached to this charge).

64. $.25 of every insurance premium dollar goes to pay for drunk driver damages.

65. Approximately 1 out of 2 Americans will be involved in a traffic collision resulting in a fatality or disabling injury in their lifetime.

66. Billions of dollars, associated with alcohol & alcohol consumption, are written off each year as "Business Expenses."

67. There are two collisions combined into every crash: (1) The initial impact when a vehicle strikes an object; (2) The "Human Collision" when the people inside the vehicle collide with each other or the interior of the vehicle.

68. Head and chest injuries are the most frequent causes of death in traffic collisions.

69. It is estimated that only 10% of all motorists wear their seat belts (includes children--U.S.).

70. A child's body is more likely to sustain injury in a crash than an adult's because a child's body is not as developed and provides less protection for the vital internal organs.

71. Approximately 84% of the front-seat passengers in Sweden use seat belts. There has been approximately a 46% reduction in serious injuries. Belgium has mandatory seat belt use...deaths are down 53.8%... Australia has had mandatory seat belt use since 1970...New Zealand, Finland, Norway, and Canada (Ontario) are just some of the countries saving lives with the increased use of seat belts.

72. Half of the deaths and injuries in traffic collisions can be prevented if seat belts are worn.

73. Many factors about alcohol are still unknown. We do know that alcohol is the #1 drug problem in this country today. Use caution and common sense when dealing with alcohol. It is always wiser to use the "better safe than sorry" approach when dealing with alcohol.

THE POLITICS OF DEATH

The perpetuation of high-speed cars, alcoholic beverages and the speed game: Speeding cars and high-speed cars are a highly significant contributing factor in alcohol-related traffic fatalities and fatalities in general.

In 1981 over 23,000 Americans were killed while driving at speeds of 55 mph and up and 8,781,252 speeding tickets were issued across the nation for exceeding the maximum speed limit. It is estimated for every ticket issued, 22,000 got away. In 1982 over 8,400,000 tickets were issued for exceeding the 55 mph speed limit.

There is no argument that a drunk driver is unsafe at any speed and most of the new small cars being built today are unsafe at low speeds. Some car bumpers cannot withstand a 5 mph impact. There is no uniformity in bumper height to insure the absorption of impact even if bumpers could absorb the impact. Wearing seat belts while traveling at extremely high speeds only offers a false sense of security and keeps you from bleeding in the street.

The human body is very fragile, especially the internal organs, and is much like a car that blows an engine. There isn't too much damage from all outward appearances until the mechanic tears the engine down and gives you the bad news that it is beyond repair. The human body, like the car, often times shows no outward appearance of damage until an autopsy is performed and the ugly truth comes too late. People can't take the impact that cars can.

When purchasing a car primary concern should be given to the future safety of the occupants of the vehicle. For example, how well will the car survive a crash test, not how fast can the car race around a curve or accelerate from zero to fifty, and not cuteness or style.

We continue to downgrade safety in the manufacture of automobiles by constructing them weaker and then advertise to drive them like maniacs. This Neanderthal psychology not only demolishes more cars, keeps the assembly lines rolling, and puts more money into the pockets of BIG BUSINESS, but it also contributes to killing many young Americans. Alcohol-related crashes are the number one cause of death and injury for ages 15-24. The majority of these are young men.

It is estimated that traffic fatalities will increase 5,000+ by 1990 due to weaker construction of automobiles.

There is a claim that Americans have an inextricable love affair with the automobile. Advertising has sold and manipulated the American public into thinking that high-speed cars and booze are status symbols. Your car is an extension of your ego and your sex appeal and guzzling booze makes you macho or sophisticated.

Automobile advertisers use words such as: Exotic, legend, hero, advanced, computer-controlled, action, strong, powerful, smart, sophisticated, high technology, intelligent, and impressive to sell you their new cars.

Booze advertisers use words such as: Delicious, unique, favorite, full, sparkle, desired, smooth, original, flavorful, romance, lovers, elegant, mysterious, simple, unpretentious, personal, imaginative, basic, and spectacular to win you over.

We tend to overlook the advertising of automobile manufacturers and alcoholic beverage manufacturers as one of the key contributing factors in killing young Americans. And, we also overlook the powerful influence of television, movies, and the media as contributing factors.

One example: Chevrolet advertises "We're taking charge" with their new Corvette that can go up to 142 mph. This beats the Capri at 127 mph; VW Rabbit GTI, 108 mph; Audi 5000 Turbo-Diesel, 100 mph; Porsche, 127 mph; Audi 5000S, 109 mph; Mercury Cougar, 107 mph; Alfa Romeo V-6 GTV at 136 mph; Oldsmobile Firenza at 101 mph; and the Renault Turbo Fuego at 105 mph (just to mention a few).

On November 23, 1982 the San Francisco Chronicle carried a full two-page ad for Ford in which the main title was "This Ford Chases Porsches For A Living." The ad showed a California Highway Patrol car (1982 Ford Mustang), without emergency lights on top, spread across both pages. The ad went on to read, "Over the past eighteen years, Ford Mustang has earned the reputation as one of America's favorite sports cars. This year, when California's Highway Patrol needed a fleet of 400 high-performance special pursuit vehicles to help keep their highways safe, 1982 Mustang got the job. This pursuit Mustang, powered by a 5.0 liter, high-output engine accelerates from zero to 50 in 6.3 seconds. Mustang's rack and pinion steering, MacPherson struts, coil springs and anti-sway bar provide the kind of responsive, precise and safe road handling needed in pursuit operations. In short, Ford Mustang means total driving performance. There could be a Mustang in your future, too. Even if you don't chase Porsches for a living. There's A Ford In America's Future." White on gray print (not so noticeable) in the upper right-hand corner read, "Get it together--Buckle up."

This was a very impressive ad both for Ford and the California Highway Patrol. The small printed "Get it together--Buckle up" and the scare tactics used to imply that the CHP has a fast car that is going to catch you if you are speeding, both have some merit.

At first glance though, the reader gets the distinct impression that this is an ad for a high-speed car and Ford wants to sell you their high-speed car. The ad does not tell you that Ford made a low bid to sell their high-speed car to the California Highway Patrol and what their motivation was in

making that low bid; they do hint about it in the printed word though. The ad, on the face of it, tells you that Ford is using the prestige of the well-respected California Highway Patrol to increase the sales of their high-speed Mustang.

The conflict of interest here is that we have a State traffic safety organization that is attempting to curb speeding, assisting in the advertising of high-speed cars. Common sense dictates if it was an ad for seat belts, seat belts would have been the focus of attention and not the high-speed car, although the CHP may use seat belts as the excuse for allowing CHP markings to be used in the ad.

This ad raises many significant issues and questions. One question is, did Ford have permission to use the CHP in their ad?

According to law, Section 25 of the California Vehicle Code, Ford had to get permission from the California Highway Patrol in order to use CHP markings in their ad.

REAGANOMICS: At the start of 1982 the Reagan Administration repealed requirements for air bags and passive seat belts on new cars. On April 14, 1982 President Reagan was in the news urging everyone to "Buckle-Up." President Reagan announced his administration was planning to spend $6.9 million in 1982 to start his seat belt campaign. The President was enlisting the help of the big automakers. In 1981 the big automakers campaigned against the mandatory passive seat belt rule. In October of 1982 the auto industry and the Reagan Administration wanted the courts to postpone a requirement for automatic seat belts in new cars until late into 1985. A government analysis indicates that most cars could be equipped a year earlier. On June 25, 1983 the Supreme Court delivered a blow to REAGANOMICS by stating the Reagan Administration acted improperly when it revoked a federal requirement that new cars be equipped with airbags or automatic seat belts. This was a major blow to Mr. Reagan's deregulation efforts in the interests of BIG BUSINESS.

REAGANOMICS is also responsible for running the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration aground. Reagan had Raymond Peck, a former lobbyist, running the NHTSA in the interest of BIG BUSINESS. Two congressional committees are currently investigating charges against Peck who resigned under pressure on April 22, 1983. Peck was playing with rules that would save between an estimated 9,000 to 12,000 lives and 2.4 billion dollars in economic losses annually.

Seat belts and airbags are not the simple solution for high-speed crashes. They are a tremendous help at lower speeds but can't do much good at extremely insane speeds where the entire car is torn to pieces.

Pickup trucks and motorcycles are also advertised in a high-speed fashion. How can we expect to curb traffic fatalities when BIG BUSINESS advertises reckless driving along with their products?

The CHP isn't the only police agency to be used in high-speed advertising. Almost all the police programs on television (including THE DUKES OF HAZZARD and CHIP's) sensationalize high-speed driving and chase scenes in order to build their ratings. Many entertainment producers as well as the public do not consider high-speed driving stunts to be a form of violence. It is a subtle violence that grows with a small child and shows up years later when that child obtains a driver's license...too often it surfaces in the form of a traffic fatality.

The child has been taught the highway is full of thrills, if you can get away with it. And, the highway cop is only an obstacle on the fun circuit.

There are too many police empire lines interfering with realistic traffic control. Traffic control in California in the unincorporated areas is delegated to the Highway Patrol and not the Sheriff's Department. This is wasted manpower because in quiet times deputies could be concentrating on curbing traffic violations. The public interest could be best served by allowing deputies to write traffic tickets along with their regular duties.

The California Highway Patrol and the Sheriff's Department should be allowed to use radar (past efforts to allow the CHP to use radar were defeated by special interest groups). Radar is an effective enforcement tool if used correctly.

We realize the system is failing to cope with the problems and we fail to adopt alternative methods to handle an extremely serious dilemma. We have been averaging about eight million speeding tickets a year for exceeding the maximum speed limit with the end result being that people have not learned to obey the law. People fail to make the connection between speeding/alcohol/drugs and death. Speeding cars kill more people than are murdered each year in this country. Drunk drivers also kill more people than are murdered each year in this country. Murder has been sensationalized on television and in the movies...speeding deaths and drunk driving have not been sensationalized.

The truth is our America Society has to wake up to the reality that traffic laws have to be tightened down just like the drunk driving laws are being tightened down. The law has to have teeth in order to save lives and the public has to be made more aware that too many people are being killed on our highways.

Prior to the gasoline shortage there occurred a little-known event that should have been printed across the front page of every newspaper in America. In 1969-1970 in Oakland, California the Nimitz Freeway had the reputation of a "Blood Alley" because of all the deaths and injuries that occurred. It was a highly congested freeway with a lot of truck traffic. The speed limit was 65 mph for cars and 55 mph

for three axle trucks. When the speed limit was lowered from 65 mph to 55 mph for cars, an amazing thing happened: The death and injury rate was cut in half when the 55 mph limit was enforced.

It did not matter if the freeway was straight, cresting, or curved, the death and injury rate was cut in half. And, this was before the gas shortage and the big debate "Does the 55 mph speed limit save lives?"

What was learned on the Nimitz Freeway should be applied on the Golden Gate Bridge which does not have a center divider. If the speed limit on the Bridge was lowered from 50 to 30 mph, deaths and injuries would probably be cut in half.

Israel got serious about its traffic problem in 1980. An elaborate education program accompanied a police crackdown. Fines have also increased. A moving violation that used to cost $150 now costs $2000.

Every violation carries a number of points -- four for ignoring a stop sign. At six points, traffic school is compulsory. At eight points, a judge can order a suspension.

In the first five months of 1980 there was a drop of sixteen per cent in all traffic collisions, a forty-one per cent drop in serious traffic collisions and a forty-eight per cent decrease in the number of people killed.

The Israelis have adopted the moral responsibility that every nation should adopt. i.e. Driving is a privilege and not an aggressive hedonistic pleasure.

Radio, television, magazines, and billboards also transmit the psychological message of high-speed driving in style. None of their advertising explains if you crash at 70 mph or 70+ mph the chances are 50/50 that you will die.

Competition between automobile manufacturers most often centers around who has the fastest car. Style is put ahead of safety and style can kill.

Most of the new cars coming into California now have speedometers that only go up to 85 mph. For $80 you can obtain your own speedometer from your local parts house that registers 160 mph. The current trend, though, is toward rpm's and torque.

Many people use the excuse that you need the power and the speed to get you of a tight spot or in case of an emergency. They forget that we have ambulances, air ambulances, fire trucks, police cars, police helicopters, and telephones...in case of emergency! Slowing down will also get you out of danger. I do recognize the fact that a certain amount of power is required in order to merge into traffic on a freeway and a reasonable vehicle has to serve as a method of transportation.

"Give the public what they want!"..."It's the law of supply and demand!"..."It's the style!"..."It's a hedonistic society anyway...so what if we kill a few?...that's life!"..."I'm a good driver...it won't happen to me."

Tell that to the countless mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters who buried a beloved member of their family.

We don't have any polls of dead drivers telling us how many of them never expected to die on our nation's highways, but a solid guess is that 99.99% of them never expected to be a highway fatality statistic. And, we don't have their voices condemning our "National Speed Game" or our "Drunk Driving Holocaust." The only appeal they have is to our "COMMON SENSE."

Another truth is that law enforcement cannot compete with BIG BUSINESS ADVERTISING. You and law enforcement together cannot cure the addiction for high-speed cars created by BIG BUSINESS. And, you and law enforcement together cannot educate your child to the fact that style can kill. BIG BUSINESS ADVERTISING is a distortion of the sense of reality. Government safety money does not come close to the money being spent by BIG BUSINESS.

How can a ten or fifteen second safety spot three times a week compete with the brainwashing which occurs during the hundreds of chase scenes that appear each week on countless movies and television programs? Safety is teaching your children that drugs, speeding, and drunk driving is wrong. The entertainment business and BIG BUSINESS is sending them the opposite message. The brainwashing that occurs here erodes your child's common sense and creates a conflict between child and parent.

Your child may tell you he is a good driver and he may set a good example in front of you, but he has a hidden zest for speed that too often only surfaces later, out of sight and in the form of a traffic fatality. And, you can't understand why...

Almost all areas of government do a fantastic job of gathering data and collecting statistics. Such is the case with traffic fatalities. The volumes, figures, and charts are all impressive. But, the big problem comes with analyzing all the data, finding solutions and then persisting in solving the problem. The solutions ultimately originate from top management and politicians.

This poses several questions: (1) Drunk drivers have consistently established a pattern of killing approximately 25,000 people each year for a period of ten years. Why was nothing done about this? (2) High-speed cars and speeding in general have consistently established a pattern of killing approximately 23,000 Americans each year for a period of ten years. Why was nothing done about this?

If we have written over 8,000,000 speeding tickets for the past four years for violating the 55 mph speed limit and for every ticket written it is estimated that 22,000 get away, why not admit we have an epidemic that cannot be handled by conventional means such as traffic cops, radar, and tickets?

Why not resort to new educational approaches and appeal to the public and private industry for support? Why continue to ticket those people who exceed the 55 mph limit on freeways where the fatality rate is half that of the rural roadways?

If the alcoholic beverage industry is over a $20 billion a year industry that causes over $24 billion in alcohol-related crashes a year, why hasn't the industry received a federal tax increase in the past 30 years to help pay for the damages? If we spend billions of dollars a year for damages that are alcohol-related, why is California only charging a penny ($.01) a gallon luxury tax on wine?

For every dollar spent on alcoholic beverages, it costs taxpayers approximately $11 in damages and related costs. Do not be fooled by the sudden charitable generosity of certain segments of the alcoholic beverage industry towards the cure of alcoholism and drunk driving, for there is a small tax increase on the horizon (AB750 introduced by Assemblywoman Jean Moorehead creates a 5% tax on wholesalers to retailers...it will be taken up again in 1984). The industry is attempting to ward off the tax increase and keep the cost of death and suffering coming out of the public's pocket.

The end of prohibition did not mean the alcoholic beverage industry was not to be taxed for damages caused by alcoholic beverages. Nor did it mean the industry was to profit at the expense of death and injury inflicted on the public by their product.

Prohibition was not a failure in that the public health improved during the prohibition era. Prohibition was a failure because people were not health conscious and/or educated as to the negative aspects of alcohol. Law enforcement was unable to control the greed of making an extra $ Buck at the expense of the public. The criminal element made booze a profitable business.

The courts claim they cannot handle all the drunk driving arrests. Why? How is it that a simple offense has become so complicated that we cannot establish the taking of judicial notice and expediting all of the cases? Is it necessary that we bring to trial each damaged ego and/or humiliating experience? Why is it we have developed such a perverted sense of justice that we think we have to have a "Perry Mason" trial for every minor infraction of the law. Is it necessary to have lengthy court trials in order to justify attorney's salaries? Going to jail for 30 days in an approved detention facility is not cruel and unusual punishment if certain safeguards are followed (In San Salvador they shoot drunk drivers). A speedy five-minute trial does not mean that a drunk driver's civil rights have been violated. We have the current technology to expedite trials. We no longer live in the 1776 era.

Laws, safety belts, center dividers, safer cars, better engineering and a million other safety ideas mean absolutely nothing if you cannot rely on the common sense, integrity, and responsibility of each and every driver. It is far better to discipline yourself than to be disciplined by a system that awakens you to the fact that the American body count from speeding and drunk driving is too high to continue to be ignored. We can no longer condone the "Game" taking place on our highways.

SUMMARY

1) Speeding cars and high-speed cars are a highly significant contributing factor in alcohol-related traffic fatalities and fatalities in general.

2) Automobile/truck and motorcycle manufacturers should not advertise their new cars, trucks and motorcycles being driven in a reckless manner or at high speeds.

3) The entertainment business should not advertise speeding with chase scenes, movies and programs that eulogize cars, trucks and motorcycles, and advertising for automobile manufacturers who compete in high-speed car manufacturing.

4) The public should be made more aware of the high-speed/alcohol-related traffic fatality connection.

5) Law enforcement should not encourage a speed game.

6) BIG BUSINESS should be prohibited from using any traffic enforcement agency to sell their new or used cars.

7) People should be safety-conscious, not style-conscious. And, thrill-seeking should be limited to amusement parks, not driving on our highways.

8) Lives saved, not the amount of tickets written, should be the goal of traffic law enforcement.

9) Government inaction and political finagling that costs lives and then is shrugged off as "Politics" is in fact "White Collar Murder."

10) Over 8,000,000 speeding tickets written each year is not an impressive statistic to pump up the ego of law enforcement. It is an indication there is something drastically wrong with the system and society. Most of these tickets were in fact issued on the best designed highways where the fatality rate was half of the rural roadways.

11) All statistics should be evaluated, not just collected. Remedies should be applied as soon as possible.

12) Fines for drunk driving, speeding, reckless driving, and all moving violations should be doubled.

13) A 10% tax for each of the next five years should be levied on wholesalers to retailers to pay for the damages caused by drunk drivers.

14) Most speed-connected/alcohol-related fatalities and speed fatalities can be stopped through public support by writing your legislators, joining the crusade against drunk drivers and by boycotting manufacturers who insist on manufacturing high-speed vehicles. The public has to persist in these efforts.

15) Legislation should be passed requiring all vehicle manufacturers to install tamper-proof mechanical governors on all vehicles that would allow a maximum speed of 70 mph only.

16) For every $ Dollar $ spent on alcoholic beverages we the public incur approximately $11 in damages and related costs.

17) Alcohol beverage taxes at the Federal level should be increased $2 per gallon for any alcoholic beverage with a 24% and up alcohol content and $1 per gallon for any alcoholic beverage with a content below 24%.

18) New tax increases should be applied directly to education, courts, law enforcement, jails, and rehabilitation.

19) Courts can streamline drunk driving trials without violating civil rights.

20) People fail to recognize that the greatest single human rights violation in this country is what is taking place on our highways.

21) The 50,000 average killed each year on our highways and the 2,000,000 injuries cannot be denied. The reality is that you could easily become a part of the next gathering of faceless statistics.

22) A 10% Federal Luxury Tax at the manufacturing level for each of the next five years should be levied on all passenger vehicles that can exceed a top speed of 85 mph. This precludes measures of torque and/or engine r.p.m.

23) Require high-speed impact testing on all vehicles that can exceed 85 mph. Test each vehicle at a speed of 85 mph and its top speed. Film all testing and use the results in government safety ads.

24) Increase the gasoline tax a penny ($.01) a gallon to pay for drunk driving reform.

25) Raise the legal drinking age to 21 in all states.

26) Educate the public to the fact that drinking drivers are as much of a problem as drunk drivers. Approximately 70% of all of the drunk drivers arrested are first time offenders.

27) Our society is machoistic, ambitious, materialistic, apathetic, and competitive. All of this adds to the death toll on our highways.

H I T - AND - R U N

There is a great deal of speculation that hit-and-run traffic collisions will increase as the penalties for drunk driving increase. The statistics are not yet at hand to prove the validity of this charge but there is a natural tendency for many drunk drivers to flee the scene in order to avoid prosecution. The public should be made aware of this possibility in order to assist the public and the police in the apprehension of hit-and-run drunk drivers.

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Three pages of this report are aimed at "How to report a possible drunk driver" and "How to spot a possible drunk driver." This information applies to hit-and-run drunk drivers and hit-and-run drivers in general. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with this important information. It can be indispensible at the time of a collision with a drunk driver or a hit-and-run driver. It is a good idea to carry this information in the glove box of your car so that you will have it should you need it. This information can save you and your family peace of mind, medical costs, and additional money should you end up in civil or criminal court. With increased medical costs you cannot afford to not defend yourself against drunk drivers. The cost of one broken leg (with complications) can run as high as $250,000 these days.

" NOTHING EVER HAPPENS TO DRUNKS ! "

"Defensive Tips In The War Against Drunk Drivers" was not only written for the innocent victims and the potential innocent victims, it was also written for drinking drivers and drunk drivers who think they are infallible.

It is all too often said that "NOTHING EVER HAPPENS TO THE DRUNK DRIVER. THEY KILL SOMEONE AND WALK AWAY WITHOUT A SCRATCH." Too many people have this misconception about drunk drivers.

The reality is there is a violent, brutal, swift justice out on our highways that punishes drunk drivers. Many drunk drivers each year are impaled, maimed, incinerated, decapitated, mutilated, disfigured, and die a horrible torturous death by their own unknowing hand. Drinking drivers and drunk drivers are often victims of the innocent lure called alcohol. Their families are left to pay the price for years to come. Death leaves a void which destroys families on both sides of the line that divides guilt and innocence.

Remember, there are two sets of victims: Those people who are totally innocent and die as the result of the actions of a drinking driver or a drunk driver, and those people who are guilty of drinking and driving or drunk driving and die as the result of their own actions. The survivors of drunk drivers are also classified as innocent victims.

The greatest fear a drunk driver has should not be the fear of getting caught but the fear of becoming a victim of his own actions. There may not appear to be harsh penalties coming from the courts but there definitely is a brutal justice taking place on our highways. Many of these crashes are listed as "SOLO" where the drunk driver does not involve anyone but himself and ends up dead.

We hear of the human anguish and outcry over sentencing a murderer to death for killing one or more people, but there is not much public objection to the thousands of drunks who end up killing themselves on our highways in a fashion that would compete with any horror story. Mention the word " gas chamber" and a horde of anxious reporters and citizens will be on hand to report on man's inhumanity to man. Mention the words "drunk driver" and, unless there is some sensationalism involved, you may not even find a small story on an inside page of the newspaper.

I hope every drinking driver reads this and comes to realize there are two kinds of justice for drinking drivers: The mellow justice coming from the courts, and the violent death no-appeal type that exists out on the highway. The police may not get you but death is much swifter and final than what the police could ever do to you. I haven't found one drunk driver yet smart enough or fast enough to outwit death under certain existing conditions which often times prevail on our highways. They play a "GAME" on our highways where death does not recognize the rules.

" ALL I HAD WAS TWO BEERS "

"All I had was two beers" is one of the most famous excuses used by drunk drivers. "Two" seems to be the magic number when first stopped by the police. "Two" to the drunk is an admission that he has been drinking but that he is not drunk. He has enough sense to realize that the officer is going to smell the booze and know that he has been drinking, and he also knows that an admission of "Three Beers" is just a little too close to a "502 Conviction" (Barroom slang for a drunk driving conviction. The "502" came from the drunk driving section of the now-outdated vehicle code) and the jailhouse door. Thus, "Two" is the compromise and "All I had was two beers" has become one of the most popular excuses.

There are those drunks who confess to "One Beer"..."Three Beers"..."Absolutely nothing officer...I swear it on my mother's grave"...and, "One quart." The beer crowd tends to know about the heavy use of the "Two Beer" excuse so they try something original like "One Beer" or "Three Beers." The one who wants to swear on his mother's grave is the one who attempts to outwit the police by drinking "Vodka." Many alcoholics are convinced the way to beat the rap is by drinking vodka because vodka is odorless (so they think). "The cops can't smell it on your breath." The "One Quart" admission is usually a "cry for help" from the alcoholic who wants treatment but lacks the discipline to search out a cure.

The problem here is DENIAL. People don't like to admit they have a problem with alcohol. Most people don't know the difference between drunk driving and driving under the influence. In fact most people agree there should be stricter laws against drunk drivers and most of these same people will admit to having driven when they knew they shouldn't have. Nobody likes to be wrong and nobody likes to go to jail.

Vodka may be odorless, but the body chemistry reacts to alcohol and gives off a noticeable stench that is recognizeable and attributed to the consumption of alcohol. Coroners and people who work around the corpses of drunks will tell you an autopsy of a drunk carries with it the readily identifiable putrification odor of alcohol.

The best way to avoid being caught up in any denial situation is to learn how to discipline yourself. Success in life depends on how you control "YOU."

There are many so-called vices in this life. We have people who are addicted to the so-called "Hard Drugs." There are people who can't give up cigarettes. And, we have people who are continually eating and whose only joy in life is looking forward to their next bite of food.

By far, alcohol is the most dangerous vice because it causes so many violent deaths, creates many nonviolent deaths from alcohol abuse, and creates so many innocent victims.

GUILT OR INNOCENCE ?

What percentage of drunk drivers who end up in court on trial are guilty? It is my conservative estimate that 99.9% of all drunk drivers who end up going to trial are guilty beyond any shadow of a doubt. The confusion and the shadows are created in the courtroom by defense attorneys.

Why are the court calendars so crowded with drunk drivers who plead not guilty? (1) The American people are abusing the court system by attempting to save face. (2) People are attempting to save themselves $ Money by avoiding stiff fines.

Our American culture teaches that you have to believe in "You" in order to compete and be a "Success" in our competitive society. An arrest for drunk driving is a humiliating experience that tarnishes one's ego. Our society does not teach much about humility and being humble. Most drunk driving trials are not a question of guilt or innocence but about saving face and $ Money. Restoring the tarnished ego to its former luster is the primary concern of too many people. And, $ Money takes precedence over guilt.

The courts should only be used to correct an injustice and to deal out justice. The court should not be a bartering house for lesser fines or where justice is dealt away to create an injustice for all of society.

People need to learn to respect the courts and to only utilize the courts to correct an injustice. Being guilty and not accepting your punishment is not correcting an injustice. People have to learn to accept their punishment when they are guilty and not threaten the system with a lengthy court trial. Abusing the court system punishes everyone.

Drunk drivers who are guilty and plead guilty should be commended by the judge for their honesty and humility. Society and families of drunk drivers should not condemn or look down on them after they have had their day in court and made retribution for their crimes. Support, not condemnation, is what is needed in order to correct the problem and bring the person back into society as a productive member of the community.

An arrest for the offense of drunk driving in most cases is a positive experience that brings a person around to examining his lifestyle and bringing about change necessary for the protection of all of society. In many cases the arrest has saved the drunk driver from death or injury that could have taken place in the future.

Drunk drivers need to learn never to make the same mistake again. All of society needs to learn not to drink and drive.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF A DRINKING DRIVER'S ACTIONS

Very few drinking drivers fully realize the consequences of their actions. They rarely get to see the total amount of damage they have inflicted and they seldom comprehend what happens to the victim. For that matter, very few people really understand what happens to the victim. This includes judges and defense attorneys.

I knew of a young, pretty 16-year-old girl who decided to go for a ride with a friend who had been drinking. He promised to bring her right home after a ride in the country.

They went to their usual drinking spot and had a few beers with some of their friends before starting home. He was proud of his pickup truck and wanted to impress her with how fast it could go around curves. The truck went off the roadway and she was ejected on impact. Both of her arms were broken and shattered as she held them out in front of her to cushion the impact. She bled to death at the scene from internal injuries.

Her body was picked up at the scene by the Coroner's truck and transported to the Coroner's Office. The family was notified and her father came down to identify what was left of his beautiful daughter. Her father will always have all memories of his daughter overshadowed by the sickening experience of having to identify her body on a table in the Coroner's Office.

Not many people realize the full meaning of the word AUTOPSY and the reality that 26,000 people a year are reluctantly butchered in the name of science due to drunk drivers -- 26,000 friends, neighbors, and relatives who did not want to become a victim of the DRUNK DRIVING HOLOCAUST. This 16-year-old girl became a reluctant unknowing specimen of science.

After the autopsy, she was then shipped off to the funeral home where all of the cosmetic technology in the world failed to restore her to her natural beauty. They embalmed, bathed, powdered, manicured, washed and set her hair, perfumed, and dressed her, all in an attempt to disguise death.

Bereaved family and friends came, cried and said their last farewells. Her mother took it the worst. Some friends said her parents aged twenty years in those few days. Her one brother and two sisters also aged with the sudden loss and the sickening reality of death...And, she was only out having a good time.

There were those who came to her wake and said, "My, but don't they have her fixed up nice."

I have yet to see anyone who looks nice while lying dead in a coffin.

She is in her grave now, having been cheated out of life. The world goes on, but everyone who knew her has lost a little part of the life they shared with her. There will always be an emptiness in the hearts of the ones that loved her.

HOW DO WE CARRY THIS MESSAGE TO IRRESPONSIBLE DRIVERS ?

A CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATION

We all know of sensationalized stories on TV about the innocent man who went to prison for a crime that he did not commit. The poor man spent twenty years in jail before they straightened out the facts. My heart went out to him just as yours did. But, did you ever hear the story of the innocent young college student who died a painful torturous death by the hands of a drunk driver who walked away with no jail time, no fine, no court appearance, and no remorse because it was an "ACCIDENT" that could have happened to anyone. Chances are you didn't hear the story because drunk driving stories are never sensationalized on TV. Violent deaths caused by drunk drivers are "ACCIDENTS" in the minds of TV writers and a commonplace trivia offense to the public. Murder inspires intrigue, mystery, prestige, and public fascination. A good murder series has always built up the TV ratings.

A young man was driving on a lonely stretch of winding road late one night when he came upon a drunk driver driving on the wrong side of the road. He saw the drunk as he rounded a blind curve and his instinctive reaction was to get out of the way. He cut the wheels sharply to the right and his car began to roll down a three hundred foot embankment. The car landed upside down and he was pinned inside the vehicle, in the darkness, with internal injuries. There was nothing he could do except hope and pray that help came on time. What he didn't know was that his car was almost totally invisible from the road due to trees and brush.

The drunk knew he had run the innocent victim off the road so he kept looking back to see if he could see the victim's car. About a mile later, the drunk was still looking for the victim's car when he himself drove off the road and crashed into some trees. The drunk crawled out of his car, made his way up the embankment, and started walking back up the road past the location of the victim.

The drunk left the innocent victim to die. He walked on home and went to bed.

The subsequent investigation showed the victim, who had not been drinking alcoholic beverages, had been alive for six hours after the time of the crash. The drunk refused to acknowledge the mere encounter with the victim and his vehicle. A polygraph test showed the drunk was lying. The only witness to the case was dead and with no contact between the vehicles and no other physical evidence, we didn't have a case. Without blinking an eye, the drunk pointed out that it was an "ACCIDENT." The drunk's laughing smile is still a vivid impression in my mind today. He was laughing at me and the system which passes off murder as an "ACCIDENT."

"GOING HOME"

We seldom think of the importance of going home at the end of a long day or of the importance of another individual going home at the end of their long day. And, we sometimes fail to think of the responsibility we have to ourselves, to others and those dependent on us.

It is a relatively common occurrence to hear the story of a mother, father, son, or daughter who went to the grocery store for a few food items and was killed by a drunk driver. Invariably the drunk driver claims it was an "ACCIDENT." Having an "ACCIDENT" and killing someone has become a common occurrence in the United States and in many other countries around the world. Murdering someone with a car and calling it an "ACCIDENT" is a socially acceptable murder excuse that makes it an act of GOD and relieves the guilty party of all responsibility. Getting drunk is a part of having fun and having fun is a big part of the American way of life. Therefore, society has made an exception in all cases of murder by vehicle and condones the carnage on our highways.

But what about the responsibility to live and let live? A dead father is unable to put the food on the table for his children and provide the essential things in life for his family. A dead mother cannot give her children the love and affection that only a mother can give. She cannot prepare the meals, wash the clothing, and give guidance to her children. A dead son short changes the love of parents, brothers, and sisters. He cannot follow in anyone's footsteps and he leaves a void in life that can never be filled. A dead sister drains the love of parents, brothers, and sisters. She will not bear children and expand the loving relationship of the family. To kill any family member is to tear out the heart of a family. Everyone dies a little bit with the loss of a loved one. A family can be cheated, violated and maimed by the actions of a fool who was out having fun and driving while intoxicated. And, we call it an "ACCIDENT."

To kill someone means to take away that individual's rights FOREVER. To kill a father or a mother means that other family members will be cheated out of that relationship and everything that could ever be gained from that relationship for the rest of their lives. And, to kill a son or daughter means that other family members will carry scars of remembering that tragedy for the rest of their lives.

There is a tremendous responsibility that goes with driving. That responsibility is to everyone including yourself. Don't ever take your life or the lives of others for granted. You can replace most of the material things in life but you cannot replace yourself, other people and the love that bonds a relationship between a mother, father, son or daughter. We all have the responsibility to respect the rights and the lives of others. "GOING HOME" is a very important part of living and a part of all of our lives.

P R I O R I T Y #1

One of the most important concepts to get across to people is "WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT ?" The answer to that question is "YOU!"

We can replace cars and we can replace a lot of material things but we cannot replace people. You would be surprised to find how many people will jeopardize their lives for a $35 tire or run across four lanes of high-speed traffic to recover a $20 hubcap. If you have a flat tire, drive to a safe location. Do not worry about ruining the tire. You could end up getting killed or having your whole car demolished for a $35 tire. The same holds true for the hubcap. Your life is worth a lot more than $20.

This is a very difficult concept to get across to a lot of people because they work so hard at being thrifty. This is a good trait to have but there is a time and place for everything and thinking about the budget has no place when it comes to survival. "TAKE CARE OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FIRST !"

The PRIORITY #1 concept is nothing new. It is preached in just about every line of work but too many people do not know how to judge what is most important. They do not know how to separate "LIFE" from the material things in life.

The PRIORITY #1 concept is one of the single most important concepts to be learned from this article. By learning this concept you can take yourself out of danger as well as avoid placing others in jeopardy.

A young woman became disabled on the freeway in one of the traffic lanes. She jumped out of her car, went to the rear of her car and starting waving off motorists who were whizzing by at about 55-60 mph. She was standing about two feet to the rear of her car when another motorist, confused at seeing the strange sight of a young woman standing in the middle of the freeway waving her arms, struck her and then crashed into the back of her car. She was pinned between both vehicles with her legs crushed, conscious, screaming, and being held in an upright position when flames from the ignited gasoline engulfed her and burned her alive.

In the above situation, the young woman's car was on a downgrade and she could have turned on her four-way flashers and moved to the right shoulder or to the left shoulder. If her car could not be moved at all, she could have remained in the vehicle and turned on the four-way emergency flashers, or she could have waited for a break in traffic and then ran to the right shoulder and walked off the freeway to a phone and called for help. As it was, she made a bad choice that cost her her life as well as the car she tried to save.

PRIORITY #1 SURVIVAL requires knowing what to do and split-second thinking in taking the necessary action. If you dull your mind and your reaction time with alcoholic beverages and then end up in a situation that requires a split-second reaction in order to survive, it could cost you your life. And, the harsh reality is, there are no second chances.

D E C I S I O N M A K I N G

CREATING A NEW SELF

I can give you a great many facts and benefits from my experience, but the ultimate decision is left up to each and every individual. It may be an easy choice for some and a difficult choice for others. Some will make the right choice now while others will make the right choice later on. Many will end their lives having lived with an alcohol problem they chose not to confront or not to recognize. The damage they created will have been a result of their decision, not bad luck or fate.

What you eat and drink affects your body and how it grows. It influences your brain and how you think. It can build a solid YOU or it can destroy whatever promise you held for the future.

At graduation time we see all the fresh young faces and listen to speeches about the future and the promise that each and every graduate holds. Never in our wildest dreams do we ever think of the skid row bums and their shattered dreams (many people whose dreams have been shattered by alcohol abuse are not skid row bums) or think that only twenty or forty years ago they sat at a graduation ceremony looking young and fresh with promise...Most of them took the Alcohol Road for one reason or another, many to escape the problems in their lives.

Too many people will do anything to remain a part of the "In Crowd." Most of their lives will be spent attempting to keep up with the "IN CROWD" and the current fads. They will be busy trying to keep up with the current style of things, and will be a part of the statistical success story of the ADVERTISING INDUSTRY. Many of them will be victims to various degrees of the "SELL GAME."

Consumers of both alcohol and tobacco should be aware of "Slow Death" and "Term Cheating." The damage caused by both alcohol and tobacco is a slow process. It does not occur overnight. Many people do damage to their bodies which shows up in later years in the form of health problems. "Enjoy now and pay later" is an expression that isn't so funny to those people who are diagnosed as having a severe health problem, and live out the remainder of their years suffering from a problem that could have been avoided. You can only cheat yourself for so long before you experience "Slow Death." Why complicate your life based on decisions made from "Fast Sell Advertising" that is only designed to boost profits.

Decide who you want to be and how you want to live your life. Decide what is going to harm you and what is going to help you. Don't let any product run your life or any advertiser manipulate you and destroy your life. You only have one life to live so make your decision based upon your whole life, not whatever distorted lifestyle is hurled at you by advertising or the TV world of make believe.

M A C H O I S M

Our society teaches young men to be MACHO and it shows up in various forms. Here are just a few measures of MACHOISM:

MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITY RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION (1978)

White Male Adult: 36.2
White Female Adult: 13.1

HOMICIDE vs MOTOR VEHICLE DEATHS PER 100,000 POPULATION (1978)

MALE
Motor Vehicle Deaths: 36.2
Homicide: 9.2

FEMALE
Motor Vehicle Deaths: 13.1
Homicide: 2.9

CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER DEATHS PER 100,000 POPULATION (1978)

Male: 45-64 years of age.....51.7
Female: 45-64 years of age.....24.4

MOTORCYCLE DEATHS AND INJURIES

Males: Over 90% of the operators killed or injured were males.

Females: 15-20% of those killed or injured were females. This indicates that many of the females were passengers.

INFORMATION SOURCES: (1) 1981 edition of Statistical Abstract of the United States, U.S. Department of Commerce/Bureau of Census. (2) National Safety Council, Motorcycle Facts, September, 1979.

TELEVISION FALLACIES

1. Drinking is not a measure of adulthood or success.
2. Speeding is not an extension of youthfulness.
3. Drinking does not make you part of the "In Crowd."
4. You don't have to drink in order to be sexy.
5. Drinking does not make you glamorous.
6. You don't have to drink in order to be considered "Normal."
7. Drinking is not without consequences.
8. There are no miraculous recoveries from alcoholism.
9. Drinking is not "Macho." Drinking does not make you a man.
10. Drunks aren't funny...they kill people!
11. Most drunks lose face...lose respect of those around them.
12. You don't have to experience alcohol in order to experience life.
13. Much of what you see on television is a distortion of reality...learn to sort out "Junk Programming" and only watch the best that television has to offer.
14. Television isn't the center of the Universe...you are. Don't center your life around your T.V. set and miss the real world.
15. Speeding cars and chase scenes on television aren't thrilling...they influence young minds, create bad drivers, and are a contributing factor in the deaths of many young Americans.

HOW TO SPOT A POSSIBLE DRUNK DRIVER

1. Weaving.
2. Straddling lanes.
3. Riding the brake pedal...Brake lights going on and off.
4. Extreme high speed...Reckless driving...Cutting in and out of traffic...(The "Killer Drunks")
5. Extreme low speed. (The "Super Careful Drunks")
6. Erratic driving. i.e. Slowing down & then speeding up. A pattern of slowing and speeding and/or weaving.
7. Hugging the slow lane and driving onto the shoulder.
8. Premature stopping.
9. Slow reactions: Failure to go on a green light; Running stop signs or traffic lights.
10. Stopping to urinate alongside the highway.
11. Loss of depth perception resulting in rear-end collisions.
12. Improper parking...Parking too far from the curb or parking off the shoulder partly in the traffic lane.
13. Driving and forgetting to turn off the turn signal.
14. Driving with the high-beam headlights on while in or going against traffic.
15. Driving with the windows down and attempting to stay awake and alert. He may be driving with his head out the window. Many drunks believe that fresh air will keep them awake and alert enough to drive home.
16. Failure to stop prior to crosswalks at intersections.

Drunk drivers may exhibit all or one of the above symptoms. The greatest threat to all motorists is the drunk driver who exhibits none of the above symptoms except the loss of reaction time. The drunk driver goes undetected until there is a traffic emergency and the drunk driver cannot react in time to the emergency. The end result being another traffic collision with someone being killed or injured.

HOW TO REPORT A POSSIBLE DRUNK DRIVER

1. When you see a possible drunk driver, seconds count. BE PREPARED ! Always carry a pad and pencil in your car within easy reach. If you have a passenger with you, have the passenger do the writing. Do not jeopardize your safety by attempting to write while driving, or by attempting to get a driver description if you cannot see the driver. License number, make, color, location, and direction of travel are the most important.

2. If you can, memorize the necessary information. When you have written down or memorized the necessary information, get to the nearest telephone and call the nearest law enforcement agency. If you travel the same area on a regular basis, you might consider writing down the necessary phone numbers and carrying them in a handy location. (California Highway Patrol - Zenith 12000)

3. If you see a police car stopped in a safe location and the officer is not in a life threatening situation, stop in front of the patrol car and walk to the side of the patrol car furthest away from the traffic lane. Always remember to use caution when reporting a drunk driver. Do not stop in the traffic lane. Do not stop in any hazardous location. If you do not exercise caution and you cause a traffic collision, you are not assisting in solving the drunk driving holocaust.

4. Wait for the officer to motion you towards him/her or until he/she approaches you. Make sure the officer sees your hands and the report. Do not carry anything in your hands except the report. Do not carry the pencil or anything that looks like a gun or knife.

5. Do not stand in or near the traffic lane on a busy freeway or highway when talking to the officer. Watch out for traffic!

6. Give the report to the officer and allow him to pursue the possible drunk driver or to call in other units. Use caution when getting back into your vehicle and when you enter traffic.

7. When you arrive at a safe location off the freeway/highway, write a brief summary of events. Describe what you saw the drunk driver doing that attracted your attention to him/her. Date, time, and initial the summary. In the event the officer calls upon you to testify in court, you will be prepared. FILE THE SUMMARY IN A SAFE PLACE!

REPORTING A POSSIBLE DRUNK DRIVER

Vehicle license number: _____ State: _____

Vehicle description: _____

_____

(Include: Make, model, color, 2 door or 4 door, etc.)

Location where last observed: _____

_____

Time of observation: _____ Speed: _____

Direction of travel: _____

(North, South, East, or West. If you do not know the direction, give a prominent landmark or city or your destination.)

Driver description: _____

_____

_____

(Male or Female, race, age, color hair, eyeglasses?, build, beard?, hat, clothing description, etc. Many people make the assumption that all you have to get is the license number to make a drunk driving conviction. This is not true. You have to be able to identify the driver in order to make a conviction under most circumstances involving a drunk driver.)

****

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Date: _____

****

S U M M A R Y

_____

_____

_____

_____

(Briefly describe what your observations were...Use the reverse side of this form for additional space.)

WRITING A LETTER FOR DRUNK DRIVING REFORM

Letters to your State and Federal representatives are one of the most important tools in bringing about change. Many representatives have a very short attention span and/or convenient memory loss so you may have to write lots of letters. PERSISTENCE is one of the most significant keys in solving the drunk driving holocaust. You have to convince your elected officials that you are not going to be satisfied until drunk driving fatalities are down to zero. We are talking about at least a twenty year commitment. That really isn't very long if you just take it a day at a time. The problem can't be solved by the lone efforts of one individual. It is going to take everybody.

When you write your letter, make several copies. Send copies to your various elected representatives and officials. They send you form letters so why not send them form letters? Send copies to the various non-profit organizations that are working to bring about drunk driving reform. These people need your support and they can use your letters to help bring about change. And, maintain a file of your own letters. Writing the first letter is the most difficult, after that it is all down hill.

Refer to the facts in this book and use the facts that you see in your local newspaper when writing your letters. Make a trip to your local library and do a little research on your own. Refer to your past letters in order to make your future letters even better.

You may use the enclosed sample letter to assist you in your letter-writing campaign. Fill in the blanks, sign the letter, make copies and then mail them out. If you like, change the letter to your own satisfaction. The money spent on postage stamps and copies is a small price to pay for saving a loved one's life.

Writing letters also helps you to become a better citizen and teaches your children to become better citizens. Take an active part in building a better America by becoming involved. You have a voice in government and what you have to say is important. Removing the menace of drunk drivers from our highways is a matter of life and death. A letter today may save the life of your child tomorrow or your grandchild in years to come.

A LETTER CAN SAVE LIVES AND LETTERS TELL LEGISLATORS THAT AMERICANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT SOLVING THE DRUNK DRIVING HOLOCAUST. PLEASE GET INVOLVED IN BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA !

Name:
Address:
City, State & Zip Code:
Date:

Dear President Reagan and the Congress of the United States:

This letter is to serve notice that I have joined the fight against drunk drivers and I support the nationwide effort to eliminate the Drunk Driving Holocaust that is claiming an average 26,000 American lives a year and injuring another million.

I am not satisfied with the funding provided to law enforcement in order to correct the problem. President Reagan wants to increase military spending to $244.7 billion in 1984. Five hundred million was just approved in Contra Costa County, California alone to improve highways. And, the President and Congress have only allocated $125 million over a three-year period for combating drunk drivers. Drunk driving is the greatest cause of death among American Servicemen today. Your priorities are way out of line and a travesty of leadership. Your token efforts are totally unsatisfactory.

I want you to do your best to strengthen the laws and the penalties for drunk driving and to increase law enforcement efforts against drunk drivers. And, I want you to increase the liquor tax to pay for all these additional costs and damage caused by drunk drivers.

High-speed driving and high-speed vehicles are a contributing factor in alcohol-related traffic fatalities. I want you to pass a law to prohibit all automobile manufacturers from advertising new and used cars being driven at high speeds. I want the message delivered to Hollywood that television and movie violence includes high-speed chase and speeding scenes because high-speed driving and high-speed vehicles are a contributing factor in alcohol-related traffic fatalities.

I am aware of the influence of the liquor lobby and the money spent by BIG BUSINESS that influences how you make your decisions. I am aware of how you drag your feet hoping that public pressure will die down and the problem will just go away. But, let me reassure you, drunk drivers will go on injuring and killing people and their blood will be on your hands until you decide to take the necessary action to correct this Holocaust.

Please do what you can to end this National Disgrace so that I can continue to vote for you.

Sincerely,

Signature

INVESTIGATION OF ALCOHOL COSTS

The American public spends more than $20 billion each year on alcoholic beverages. The trend is toward more beer and wine and away from hard liquors.

Alcohol abuse is the #1 problem in the United States today. There is an estimated $24 billion cost of drunk driving, $25 billion cost to industry, $20 billion in crime, and $150 billion in support costs such as extra police, hospitals, medical facilities, jails, and government agencies. This brings the total cost close to $220 billion annually.

Who is paying for all of this?

The Federal Government charges a brewer of 500 or more barrels a year an annual tax rate of $110. Wholesale dealers in liquors are charged $255 a year. Distilled spirits, $10.50 per proof gallon; beer, $9.00 per 31 gallon barrel; wine, $.17 per wine gallon, with not more than 14% alcohol. Distilled spirits (proof strength or less) $2 per wine gallon.

Claims are made that taxes make up almost 50% of the price you pay for alcoholic beverages (not true in most cases).

Alcoholic beverages are a big source of revenue for the U.S. Government.

The alcoholic beverage industry is BIG BUSINESS that inflicts a great amount of damage on society with their potentially lethal product. Two BIG BUSINESS examples are: (1) In the first 5 months of 1983, Gallo shipped 575,000 cases of brandy; (2) And, in that same five month period, Christian Brothers shipped 480,000 cases.

My estimate is that for every $ Dollar $ spent on alcoholic beverages the public pays $11 in damages and related costs.

The alcoholic beverage industry would have to be taxed approximately 1100% in order to pay for damages and related costs. If they are only paying approximately 50% of the cost of damages and related costs, then the remaining 1050% of the damage and related costs are passed on to the public (1090% in many cases).

L E G I S L A T I V E I S S U E S

The following is a sampling of legislative issues in the State of California. Most of these issues are relative to all of the other states and to many countries.

AB624 (Moorhead) provides that when young drivers are convicted of alcohol-related offenses, they will lose their drivers licenses until their 18th birthday, or until the sentence has been served, whichever is later. Passed Assembly 80-0, now before the Senate.

SB131 (Deddeh) provides that the same penalties that apply to intoxicated operators of automobiles will also apply to intoxicated bicycle riders. Enacted into law.

SB119 (Presley) eliminated the huge fee that was formerly required in order to file an appeal before the Alcohol Beverage Control Appeals Board. In place of this large fee, SB119 provides for a 3% surcharge on all liquor licenses. Enacted into law.

AB1520 (Moore) provides that any youth under the age of 21 who is convicted of purchasing or consuming alcoholic beverages will be required to perform 24 to 36 hours of community service. Passed Assembly 75-0, now before the State Senate.

AB1219 (Floyd) would have mandated that a hard liquor license be activated on the grounds of the Veterans' Home at Yountville. This bill passed the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee, but was defeated in the Ways & Means Committee. Representatives of the Home testified that more than 50% of the residents have alcohol related problems.

Increasing the taxes on alcoholic beverages in California is still very much up in the air. This issue is linked to the State budget, education, and other related fiscal issues.

There are many people who believe the impact of drunk driving is at its peak and is now on a downward trend. They are quick to point out that this is what has happened in other countries where drunk driving reform was attempted. The initial trend is for fewer deaths and injuries and more law-abiding people but in the long run, people go back to their old bad habits.

It is important to remember that drunk driving reform of this magnitude has never been attempted in the United States before. If we all work for reform and maintain a constant pressure for reform, the ultimate goal shall be achieved...reducing drunk driving deaths and injuries down to a bare minimum...it all takes time.

D E F E N S I V E T I P S I

HOW TO AVOID BEING KILLED BY A DRUNK DRIVER

More than 2,000,000 Americans have died in car wrecks since 1900. This compares to 1,200,000 Americans killed in all the wars since 1776. Over 1,000,000 Americans were killed by drunk drivers since 1900. If nothing is done about the Drunk Driving Holocaust now, another 500,000 Americans will be killed and 20,000,000 will be injured by the year 2000 (The last 20 years of this century). You or your loved ones could become part of that statistic.

****

1. Safety Information Sources -- Look around you -- there are pamphlets containing safety tips for bicycle riders, motorcycle riders, small children, pedestrians, and drivers available from the Highway Patrol/State Police/State Patrol, other law enforcement agencies, Departments of Motor Vehicles, State Automobile Associations, private industry, motor clubs, insurance companies, and other government agencies. Pay a visit to these nice people and get the information for your children's sake and teach them to watch out for drunk drivers.

2. What do drunk drivers look like? Most people assume drunk drivers stagger around and are falling down drunk. NOT TRUE ! Many, many people under the influence of alcohol will not show recognizable symptoms of alcoholic consumption. Their mental control will be lost first. Their lack of physical control may not be readily apparent at the time the person is already under the influence of alcohol. So, watch out! Two drinks should be enough to satisfy anybody. Three drinks makes a potential killer. That's why drunks always use the Nationally Recognized Excuse when stopped for drunk driving -- "All I had was two drinks (or "All I had was two beers")." Every individual is different. One drink to a nondrinker can be as deadly as three drinks to the average drinker.

3. THE WRONG WAY DRIVER -- Each year many people are killed by drunk drivers who get on the freeway going the wrong way. Most of the time these drunks end up killing people in the fast lane...Why?...The drunk driver knows he is drunk and he is trying to limp on home. He is even thinking safety in his impaired state of mind, believe it or not, so he moves to the slow lane in order to not interfere with traffic. Unfortunately, he is now in the fast lane going the wrong way. If the drunk driver is going 50 mph and you are traveling at 55 mph you have a combined speed of 105 mph. The drunk also has the element of surprise working for him. If you come around a blind curve or crest a hill, you won't be expecting him. Most often, before your brain can register the impending disaster and cause you to react, occupants of both vehicles are dead.

4. Know what to do if you see a drunk driver weaving towards you.

   a. If you are walking, be defensive. Get out of the way. Move as far out of the way as you can. Survival requires split second thinking...know where to run...look for an escape route.
   b. If you are driving and a drunk driver is coming towards you, move as far to the right as you can and stop. Leave your car running and in gear. If he aims at you, accelerate out of the way. Always be looking for an escape route. Get out of the way! Sound your horn.
   c. If you are driving and you see a drunk driver coming up behind you and weaving, look for the nearest escape route. Get out of the way. If you can, get behind him.
   d. Obtain the vehicle license number, vehicle description and driver description if possible and call the information in to the nearest law enforcement agency as soon as possible. Give time of observation, speed, location, and direction of travel.
   e. If you are riding a bicycle, be sure your bicycle is equipped with a yellow flag and a rear view mirror. Supervise and train your child on how to ride a bicycle, use the rear view mirror, and how to take evasive action in the event a drunk driver comes weaving up from behind. Don't rely on the basic human instinct to save your child's life. A small child on a bicycle is no competition for a ton of moving steel.

5. Always walk against traffic on a two-way roadway. The difference of being two feet from traffic coming from behind if you are on the wrong side of the road and fourteen feet if you are on the correct side of the road, could mean the difference between life and death.

6. Wear white or light colored clothing when walking at night or riding a bicycle. Be sure your bicycle is equipped with a headlight and reflectors. Never assume that because you see a car, the driver sees you. You are much smaller and less visible than a car when walking as a pedestrian or riding on a bicycle. Even though a car's headlights may shine on you, this does not necessarily mean the driver has spotted you and is now watching out for your safety.

7. Monitor the drinks you give to your guests who drive. Don't create a drunk driver. Don't allow drunken guests to drive.

8. Teenagers are involved in one out of five alcohol-related traffic deaths. Teach your children about drinking and the responsibility that goes with it. Set a drinking limit for yourself before you go out for a good time and stick to your limit. NO EXCEPTIONS ! This is one of the Cardinal Rules for survival in this world. Do not think that you are going to stop drinking when you get high. By then, it is too late. Set an example for your children. When you drink and drive you are a potential killer who violates everyone's rights...including your own.

9. Refuse to ride as a passenger with a drunk driver. You have the responsibility of making an adult decision and learning to say "No." Don't make any exceptions. The cemeteries contain too many people who were afraid to voice an opinion and say "No."

10. Do you know what to do in a traffic emergency? i.e.

    a. If you have a flat tire while driving on a busy freeway, drive to the shoulder. Do not stop in the traffic lane.
    b. If you have a flat tire on a bridge or in a tunnel -- keep moving -- turn on your 4-way flashers -- keep moving until you can reach a safe location out of the traffic lane. Your life is worth more than a $40 tire.

c. Do you carry emergency flares in your car? Do you know how to use them? Do not light flares near gasoline or in the immediate vicinity of wrecked vehicles. Do not place flares in a ditch where gasoline might run out of a wrecked vehicle, down the ditch and be ignited by the flare. If there are injured people in the vehicle who are pinned in and cannot escape, they will die in the ensuing fire. DO NOT USE FLARES WHERE EXTREME FIRE DANGER EXISTS! Do not use flares near dry grass or during windy weather when the fire danger is high. Use emergency roadside reflectors when you cannot use flares. Waving a white flag or object can also be effective for warning traffic. Or...USE A FLASHLIGHT!

d. Do you carry a first aid kit in your car? Do you know enough about first aid to save your child's life? Do you know where to go to receive additional first aid training?

e. Do you carry a fire extinguisher in your vehicle? Do you know how to use it? Do you carry emergency phone numbers with you and in your vehicle?

f. Don't gamble with your life and the lives of other people if your car is giving you clues by missing and sputtering. Get it fixed before it stalls out in traffic.

g. If you are involved in a traffic collision on the freeway and your car can still move, drive it off the roadway. Don't leave cars in the traffic lanes until an officer arrives, or there may be other collisions in the back-up behind your vehicle.

h. If you are disabled alongside the roadway and choose to stand outside of your car to wait for assistance, look for a safe place to stand. Do not stand in front of your car. If a drunk driver hits the rear of your car, your own car will run over you. Do not stand near or in the traffic lane waving at traffic and trying to get someone's attention. Tie an improvised white flag on your antenna or on the driver's door handle or place a SEND HELP sign on the back of your car.

i. Do not stand between vehicles. Rubberneckers and drunk rubberneckers eager to see what is happening are not paying attention to their driving and may come crashing into you and crush you between the cars.

j. If there is a guard rail near you with a safe place to stand on the side away from the traffic lane, step over the guard rail. You now have a barrier working for you and against the drunk driver. Stand to the rear of your car. In the event your car is rear-ended you will not be run over by your own car.

k. I do not recommend standing outside of your car in a high crime area. Stay in your car and lock the doors. If someone stops, roll the window down a few inches and ask them to call assistance for you.

l. If you are going to change a flat tire, get as far away from the traffic lane as you can. If there is someone with you, assign him/her to watch traffic and warn you if someone comes weaving towards you. Two patrolmen on a traffic stop operate this way. Remember, when you take your eyes off traffic, you have lost the advantage of an early warning and your life is in danger.

m. Never run across a freeway. Many auto/pedestrian fatalities occur this way each year.

n. Watch your fuel gauge. Many people whose car simply ran out of gas were killed while disabled on or alongside the roadway. Don't create an unnecessary risk for you or your family. Keep your fuel tank at least half full.

o. If you are involved in a traffic collision with a drunk driver, he may attempt to flee the scene before the police arrive. Try to keep him at the scene. Ask him to identify himself. Would you be able to identify him if he left the scene before the police arrived? Get a description of him and his vehicle.

p. Carry a pad and pencil in your car. Make a note for the officer on the drunk driver and also write down your name and phone number.

q. Thinking safety and knowing what to do in case of a traffic emergency requires a clear mind. If you've had too much to drink, are on medication that impairs your driving ability or are intent on driving while extremely tired, you are lessening your chances for survival. If your car stalls out in traffic or you encounter some other type of traffic emergency that requires a split second reaction, your impaired state of mind could cost you your life.

11. Most drunk drivers avoid responsibility by referring to their crimes as "Accidents." Most lawyers defend drunk drivers and win cases by making juries believe that it was an "Accident." i.e. The drunk driver had no control of the circumstances. It was fate. "There but for the grace of God go I." Everyone has control of his or her actions (referring to the average normal individual). No one helps the drunk lift the glass to his or her mouth. Most "Accidents" are in fact "Individual Acts of Ignorance." Think before you drink and drive. Know that you are responsible for your actions and the lives of ALL of the people around you.

12. Don't u[illegible] alcohol with other drugs. Don't serve alcohol to people [illegible]o you know are on drugs. Alcohol and drugs don't mix.

13. Don't drink excessively when driving, walking, playing, working at your job or working around the home. Too many "Accidents" in every walk of life are caused by excessive drinking.

14. Erasing myths -- (1) Many people seriously believe they don't have a drinking problem because "I never take a drink until after 5 p.m." ... It doesn't matter when you drink, it matters how much you drink... (2) "Don't treat me like a criminal!" is another Nationally Recognized Statement made by drunk drivers. This statement reflects the poor general National Attitude about drunk driving and the lack of awareness concerning the magnitude of the problem. An average of 26,000 people are killed by drunk drivers each year but the drunk driver doesn't want to be called a criminal????? Drinking coffee, sticking your head out into the fresh air, and exercising in order to sober up are all myths.

15. After 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights is "Prime Drunk Driver Time." (Some people state after 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday). The severity of traffic collisions goes up. But don't forget, you can expect a drunk driver at any time of the day or night. Many chronic alcoholics are legally drunk 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

16. Between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Sunday nights the "Early Drunks" are closing out their weekends. Watch out! Don't become their next victim.

17. The night driver -- Many people like to travel at night because they "make better time." Speeding can be especially dangerous at night due to the higher incidence of drunk drivers. Each mph over the speed limit decreases your chances for survival in a traffic collision.

18. Do you know where your children are, and with whom? Are they being influenced by someone who has to drink in order to have a good time? Are you setting your child up to be a victim?

19. Teach your children to use a safer traffic route, providing the route is safe from other types of crimes. i.e. A route with less vehicular traffic is usually a safer route. The more cars that pass your child, the greater the risk of a drunk driver killing your child. An alternate route with less vehicular traffic may be a solution for survival.

20. Don't assume anything! If you are a pedestrian and you are walking on a sidewalk or in a marked bicycle lane, don't assume you are in a safety zone. A sidewalk curb or a solid white line marking a bicycle lane is not a barrier against a drunk driver. Drunk drivers cause damage and create victims every year by driving through houses. Drunk drivers know no barriers.

21. Wear your seat belt. This applies to both drivers and passengers. Do not apply "Home Remedies" in place of good safety sense. LISTEN! (1) Many people who drive don't wear their seat belts because they think they will remain secure in their seat if they hang on to the steering wheel. IT WON'T WORK! If you hit something at 35 mph you have approximately 1500 psi pressure between you and the steering wheel. You won't be able to hang on. (2) Do you have a safety seat for your baby? Many young mothers riding as a passenger in the right front seat think that by cuddling the baby in their arms they can protect the baby from death or injury. WRONG! If the mother isn't wearing a seat belt, in a 30 mph crash, she will probably crush her baby to death against the dash. If she is wearing a seat belt, she probably won't be able to hold on to her baby. A 10 pound baby can exert 300 pounds of pressure against the mother's grip at 30 mph. The baby will be launched against the dash or windshield. Use a safety seat for your baby. Buckle the child into the seat and secure the safety seat to your car seat. If a drunk driver runs a stop sign or a red light and broadsides your car, seat belts can mean the difference between being dead or alive. Seat belts are one of the best defenses against drunk drivers. Teach your children to wear seat belts and set a good example for them by wearing your seat belt. Ignorance of the facts is not to be confused with fate.

22. Practicing good driving habits and slowing down are good defensive tactics. Don't get in a hurry. People in a hurry tend to make mistakes. Don't pull out in front of a drunk driver and expect a split second reaction from him to save your life.

23. If you become disabled alongside the roadway and you are well clear of the traffic lane, turn off your flashing emergency warning lights if help is on the way. Drunks tend to zero in on flashing lights. Many a police car has been wiped out because of displaying flashing amber warning lights. Every set of circumstances is different. Don't panic, and try to use good judgment.

24. "Zeroing in" -- Inattention as pertaining to the drunk driver is especially dangerous. Many drunk drivers have a tendency to steer towards the object or person their inattentive mind has focused on. The target can vary from a pretty girl jogging alongside the highway, bright colors, flashing lights, movement, oncoming headlights, etc. Flags, flashing warning lights, bright clothing, lights and barricades which are aids to the sober driver can actually become targets for the drunk driver.

25. Do you know where not to sit in your car if you become disabled alongside the roadway? The greatest threat to you is having a drunk driver run into the back of your car. If you are parked at the right edge of the roadway, chances are the drunk driver will crash into the left rear of your car. So, don't sit in the left rear seat. The right front seat is the safest place to be. The driver's seat or the right rear seat are second choices. Think survival.

26. The importance of color -- When you are selecting a color for your car, think safety! Gray and shades of gray are very dangerous colors. Why? Gray is the perfect camouflage color. Gray blends in with the asphalt. Especially faded asphalt. When the clouds move in and the sky turns gray and the daylight fades, remember, if you are driving a gray car your safety factor has faded too. Turn your lights on! "I didn't see him coming!" is a very popular statement among sober people who were deceived by a ton of moving steel painted gray. If sober people have a hard time seeing gray cars, think of what dangers the impaired drunk driver poses for you.

27. Dusk & Dawn driving -- When the light begins to fade at the end of the day, turn your lights on. And, when the sun begins to rise, don't turn your lights off. Keep your lights on until there is total daylight. Help the other driver to see you.

28. White -- If you live in the snow country, white should not be among your choices of a safe color. White is a camouflage color for the snow country. If you do own a white car and you do drive in the snow country, you might consider always driving with your lights on, and if you leave your car parked you might consider tying an orange flag on the antenna.

29. There are many good colors for cars such as yellow, orange, and red. Multiple colors are the best. When you purchase your automobile, consider having one light color to reflect the light at night.

30. A Fact of Life -- The human being has not been blessed with perfect eyesight. A driver with 20/20 eyesight will see 20/32 at night. Add a tinted windshield and the acuity drops to 20/46. Drivers with 20/30, 20/40 or less daytime acuity may have inadequate nighttime vision. We all have impaired vision to a certain degree and our eyes are constantly changing as the light around us changes. Blinded by the sun...unable to see through the fog...hindered by fading light...hampered by the glare of rain on the pavement...unable to see clearly because of the rain or ice on the windshield are all reminders to exercise caution. If you drink and drive you have more than added to the problem.

31. When traveling at night and during the early morning hours be especially alert for the drunk drivers doing the unexpected. i.e. Stopping and sleeping in the fast lane; Sleeping while parked broadside across all the lanes; Driving without lights on; Making U-turns on the freeway; Driving on the wrong side of the road on a conventional two-way roadway; And, running stop signs and running through red lights.

32. Motorcycles and Death -- Motorcycle riders have no protection when hit by a drunk driver. Motorcycles don't have bumpers, seat belts, or a protective shell and the motorcycle rider's body ends up having to absorb the impact. Studies show approximately 90% of traffic collisions involving motorcycles result in death and injury. There are approximately 5000 motorcycle riders killed and 500,000 injured each year. Motorcycles are a high risk means of travel.

33. Watch out for curves! -- If you become disabled on any highway your chances for survival are greater on a straight stretch of roadway than on a curve. Drunk drivers tend to have more difficulty driving around curves as they tend to "drift" more (extreme overcorrecting in order to negotiate the curve). If he is in the right-hand lane (a good many extreme drunk drivers tend to hug the right-hand lane and limp on home), he may drift off onto the shoulder and crash into you. The outside of any curve is usually more dangerous than the inside of any curve. Any curve on a two-way roadway is an extremely dangerous place to meet an oncoming drunk driver. Too often a curve deceives and camouflages the fact that a drunk driver is in fact driving on the wrong side of the road. When he draws closer to you it is often times too late to take evasive action.

34. Insurance -- A better built automobile is your best insurance against the drunk driver. The stronger the car body, the better able it is to take and absorb impacts. Don't sacrifice your life for fuel economy.

35. Watch out for blind hills and curves -- If you become disabled in these locations, the drunk driver can be an extremely deadly menace to you due to his poor reaction time and your inability to see him in time. If you can, move your car out of the traffic lanes and as far away from the roadway as possible in these locations. The rule of thumb is "the further away from the traffic lane you are, the safer you are going to be."

36. Think ahead as to what you would do in a traffic emergency. "What would I do if...?" is the best way of thinking out a traffic emergency and avoiding panic in a life and death situation. Thinking and planning ahead may save you or your loved one's life.

37. "Advanced Warning" -- When driving on the highway and you see traffic coming to a dead stop ahead, pump your brake pedal or turn on your 4-way flashers to warn traffic coming behind you of the impending stop. Avoid a rear-end collision by giving an advanced warning.

38. Learning to be flexible in foul weather -- Traffic collisions can triple or quadruple in foul weather. Rain, snow, or ice means lost traction or less traction. This combined with an impaired drunk driver can spell disaster for you and your family. Be flexible! A change of plans due to poor weather may save a loved one's life. The disappointment of not taking a family trip does not compare to the disappointment of killing or injuring a family member. Don't allow pleasure to control your common sense. Don't invite a disaster.

39. "Creating A Buffer Zone" -- When coming to a dead stop in traffic, do not create a panic stop for those behind you by coming to a sudden stop just a few feet behind the car in front of you. Come to a gradual stop and then allow at least ten feet between your car and the car in front of you. This distance serves as a buffer zone and lessens the chances of other vehicle involvement in the event of a rear-end collision. Watch your rear view mirror. If you see that the driver coming up behind you isn't going to be able to stop in time, pick up the slack and turn on your 4-way flashers as you move up to the car in front of you.

40. TAXI! -- There are many alternatives to drunk driving. The least expensive and smartest alternative is to call a cab. Spending $10 or $20 for a cab as compared to a $500 fine and a night in jail is a big savings in time and money. And, "I can't afford a cab" is no excuse for killing somebody. There isn't a psychological barrier against allowing someone to get drunk, but there is a psychological barrier against giving a drunk $20 to take a cab. "Let him take care of himself!" are famous last words that are repeated over and over again before drunks have gone out and killed someone. Keep your friends sober so you won't have to lend them money for cabs or drive them home.

41. Be outspoken. If you know someone who drinks too much, tell them. Tell them about the new laws too. You may save them from a very unpleasant experience and from $500 to $1500 in drunk driving costs.

42. Liability & MURDER -- If you injure or kill somebody while driving under the influence of alcohol, you lose! You can be taken to civil court and sued for damages and you can be tried in criminal court and sent to prison for second degree murder.

43. SUBLIMINAL ADVERTISING is advertising that penetrates the subconscious without people being aware of what is happening. This is why advertising has been referred to as one of the most expensive manipulators in the world. It does work and it does have an impact on society. SUBLIMINAL ADVERTISING for alcohol also comes from splinter sources such as songs and movies where actors portray drinking as sexy or being a status symbol.

44. The average eight-year-old child watches T.V. for 26 hours a week and does not distinguish fantasy from reality very well. Young minds are very impressionable and the bombardment of advertising begins at an early age in winning a child over to the alcohol "Style." Government safety advertising cannot compete with alcoholic beverage advertising and automotive industry advertising.

45. "Falling asleep close to home theory." Why do so many people fall asleep and crash close to home? Theory has it that the mind anticipates and races ahead to the destination leaving the reality of driving behind. The person is so eager to jump into bed and sleep that the tedious task of driving is abandoned in favor of the much needed rest. This can happen to a non-drinker too, but the risk greatly increases with the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

46. BIG RIG (Large Trucks) weight is another factor in creating unsafe roadway conditions. In addition to the crushing weight that kills people in a collision, BIG RIGS damage the highways. An 80,000 pound truck is said to do as much damage as 9600 passenger cars. If an average motorist pays $50 in registration fees and we compare this to the truck, the truck would have to pay $480,000 in order to make up for highway damages. The next time you see a truck with a sign on the back boasting of paying a $1500 use tax, think of the actual damage caused to the highway by the truck...On April 6, 1983 REAGANOMIC'S Secretary of Transportation approved use of double-trailer trucks of up to 80,000 pounds on all interstate highways and designated roads.

47. There are no proved "Sobriety Pills" that will cure a drunk driver. The FDA is moving to prohibit untested "Sobriety Pills" or potions being sold to motorists who want to drink and drive. To date there are no miracle cures for sobering up drunk drivers.

48. So-called STATUS DRUGS are returning to the community. There are always those people who feel that if alcohol gives them a high, why not try one better. Young people who do not know of the lessons learned in the sixties are now trying out heroin and the psychedelic drugs. The term "LSD freaks" didn't come out of nowhere; it was coined from the brain damage caused by continued use of LSD. All of these drugs are dangerous.

49. Increased Head Injuries In New Vehicles: Pay close attention to the distance from a rear seat passenger's head to the rear window when purchasing a new car. The rear window in many of the new cars is only a few inches away from the heads of your rear seat passengers and many of the new cars do not come equipped with rear seat head rests. If your car is rear-ended, the rear seat passengers are going to sustain head injuries if you do not have protective head rests. As vehicles are down sized, it becomes increasingly important to wear the shoulder restraint type of seat belts. There is less space between vehicle occupants and the windows. Thus, there is an increased risk of severe cuts from occupants impacting the windows.

50. Spilled Loads: Each year many traffic collisions and injuries are caused by people who fail to tie down their loads in a safe, secure manner. Something usually falls onto the roadway, people start swerving around the object, and sooner or later someone crashes while attempting to avoid the object. Be sure to tie down your load in a safe, secure manner.

51. Reporting Spilled Loads: If you see someone spill something onto the roadway and you have the opportunity to obtain a license number, call the information in to the nearest law enforcement agency as soon as possible. If the load you saw spilled was a dangerous chemical, your quick response can save lives and/or render the fast opening or closing of the highway.

52. Obtaining The Right License Number: Many BIG TRUCKS (Commercial Vehicles) tow leased trailers. This creates a problem because if you report the license number of the trailer, the police are going to locate the one who owns and leases the trailer and most of the time they do not know what is being hauled on their leased trailers...If you can, always obtain the license number of the truck that is towing the trailer. If possible, get both license numbers.

53. "DON'T FOLLOW ME": Many people have the bad habit of having another driver follow them to a mutual destination. This is an extremely dangerous habit because all too often the other driver is so intent on following that he fails to drive defensively. He is so busy watching the other driver's vehicle that he fails to see certain hazards or he creates hazards by committing traffic violations in order to keep up with the other driver. It is much better to have each driver drive independently by using a map. Develop a plan and an alternate meeting place in the event one motorist becomes lost. It is not uncommon to find people who were following each other across several states lost and separated with no plan of action in the event one of them had become lost. Always have a prearranged alternate meeting place or a mutual phone number to call. This plan can save you hours and even days.

54. Flying Objects: Keep heavy objects in your vehicle tied down and keep all loose objects contained. I once investigated a traffic collision where a station wagon rear-ended a truck. The man who was driving the station wagon was a mechanic and he had all of his tools lying loose in the back of the station wagon. One of the screw drivers came flying forward on impact and punctured right through the wheel well. Many people have become victims from their own load. The back of your head is no match for a 50 pound tool box flying through the air at 60 mph.

DEFENSIVE TIPS II

Defensive Tips In The War Against Drunk Drivers

Defensive Tips In The War Against Drunk Drivers is a summary of information that you should find useful in protecting you and your family against drunk drivers. It is intended to create a greater safety awareness for you and your loved ones. You can avoid becoming a victim of the Drunk Driving Holocaust. Please pass this information on to your friends and relatives.

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We don't have National Cemeteries in honor and memory of the innocent victims of drunk drivers, and there haven't been any major protests against drunk drivers that would compare to the protests against the Viet Nam War. Drunk Drivers by the year 2000 will have killed more Americans than all the wars the United States was ever involved in (1,200,000 Americans killed in all the wars since 1776 -- 1,500,000 Americans killed in alcohol-related crashes by the year 2000).

The problem with the Drunk Driving Holocaust is that National attention was not focused on the problem until 1982.

From 1910 to 1982 people died in small seemingly insignificant numbers and were mourned by loved ones behind closed doors in the isolation of funeral homes. Noone started a massive persistent educational campaign to educate the surviving victims and all the victims' families as to the magnitude of the problem. There was no unifying force.

Definition: Drunk Driving is a simple driving offense that has potentially devastating murderous consequences that is too often carried to trial because the offender, blinded by humiliation, seeks to clear his/her tarnished ego. It is not a question of clearing one's guilt but a question of supposedly clearing one's reputation and erasing a blemished driving record at a price. The law does not reflect the lethal potential of drunk driving.

Civil Rights: We all have civil rights and we should respect the civil rights of other people. It is important that we do not lost sight of the fact that victims have rights and it is equally important that we do not lose sight of the fact that drunk drivers are people and they have rights too. The judicial process and the law can change without losing individual rights. Punishment for drunk drivers can increase without losing individual rights and victims can be saved from loss of life which in fact is the totality of their individual rights. Tougher laws for the violent crime of drunk driving do not necessarily mean drunk driver civil rights are now being violated. Drunk drivers have been getting away with murder and the change in attitude and the law are now just starting to reflect the right to equal protection and equal justice under the law.

1. Conflict Between the Law and Reality: Scientific research indicates that any amount of alcohol affects the brain which in turn affects your entire body. Many researchers state you obtain a maximum high at fifty-five thousandths (0.055) of one percent of alcohol. In California if your blood has one tenth (0.10) of one percent or more of alcohol in it, you are considered drunk, and you are breaking the law by driving. If your blood has less than five hundredths (0.05) of one percent of alcohol, you are considered not to be drunk. If your blood alcohol level is between these limits, this will be used along with other evidence to prove whether or not you were drunk. The law should be brought into conformity with scientific research and the blood alcohol level should be lowered from one tenth (0.10) to five hundredths (0.05) in order to be automatically considered drunk. Many people believe that since any amount of alcohol affects the brain, we should arrest and convict any person who drives after consuming any amount of alcohol.

2. Change For The Better: It is important to remember here that through criticism comes change for the better and we all have to work together to end the drunk driving holocaust. Automobile manufacturers, law enforcement, courts, television, the media, alcoholic beverage manufacturers, various government and private agencies, the insurance industry, non-profit organizations, labor, civic, fraternal, social organizations, schools, colleges and the public at large all have to work together in order to solve the problem of drunk driving.

3. Taking Judicial Notice I: All drunk driver suspects in San Francisco involved in traffic collisions that result in death or serious injury are now required to take a blood test. This has resulted in a certain amount of public outrage claiming the drunk's civil rights will be violated. Is there any comparison between a drunk driver in a hospital under clinical sanitary conditions having a tiny needle enter his arm and a child victim being maimed by the drunk's car and the child's blood and vital organs spilled all over some dirty road?

4. Taking Judicial Notice II: A federal judge ruled a convicted felon shot 65 times during a 33 second gun battle with federal agents was not a victim of excessive force.

5. Taking Judicial Notice III: We have distorted our sense of reality when it comes to violence. Cars are a far more violent means of death than guns, but we fear guns more than we fear cars, so we condone socially acceptable murder with cars. Please support mandatory blood tests and prison terms for drunk drivers.

6. Born to Drive: Many people think that driving is hereditary. i.e. It is in their genes so to speak. They think it is an automatic privilege that comes when you reach the legal age. It is something that comes natural. It is a person's right and their due. It is expected and the world owes them a driver's license because everyone else has one. WRONG! Driving is a privilege that does not come automatically. The right to a driver's license means that you have the responsibility of preserving life and limb while you drive. You have a responsibility to the community not to kill anybody. You are deemed intelligent enough to realize the consequences of your actions.

7. Respecting the Rights of Others: One of the best ways to join the "In Crowd" is by showing your concern for others. When you show you care about others, people see you as not being conceited. When you carry this same concern over to your driving ability you are telling everyone that you care. Fools kill a lot of people. Don't be a fool by riding with a fool.

8. Why Get Involved?: Drunk drivers are a threat to everyone and it is a lifestyle that is morally wrong. It is not only the "Thou Shalt Not Kill" aspect but the fact that the money could be used to cure the ills and social problems of this country and the world. With old folks eating out of garbage cans and young people jobless and standing in bread lines we can no longer afford to look the other way...saving one child is reason enough.

9. Hangover: How many people have killed themselves or others while suffering from hangovers? We don't have the answer to that question, but we suspect the number would run into the thousands. Anyone who has ever had a hangover can tell you they were not functioning 100% the day after they got drunk. They felt sluggish, were not totally alert and they weren't feeling all that good. A hangover is a self-inflicted illness that makes one as potentially dangerous as a drunk driver. If you are suffering from a hangover you should not be driving an automobile or operating any dangerous machinery.

10. Advertising: "Give the public what they want" is often the motto of manufacturers and their advertising. Does the public want to be exploited for a $ profit at the expense of murder? We tell our children not to drink and drive and then we entice and bombard them to no end with advertising that is against what we preach. ? ? ?

11. Assigning a Driver: Many of the Scandinavian countries have much stricter laws than we have. Thus, when they go out to a party one person is selected who is to have absolutely nothing alcoholic to drink. When they go to the next party, on another day, a different driver is selected. They all take turns being the sober responsible driver. i.e. Norway has a law that dates back to 1936 making a blood alcohol level of five hundredths (0.05) of one percent and above illegal. The penalty for the first offense is 21 days in jail, possible fine, and you lose your license for one year. Sweden is a little more lenient, 0.05 to 0.15 for a fine and prison up to six months; above 0.15 is a maximum one-year prison term. Both of these standards are lenient as compared to San Salvador which executes drunk drivers by firing squads.

12. A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: If you have a camera with you and you see a drunk driver who is attempting to flee the scene before the police arrive, take his picture and then give the picture and/or film to the police to be used as evidence against the drunk driver. Maybe we should all start carrying a camera during peak drunk hours when we are out driving?

13. The Innocent Lure: People who drink a lot tend to make excuses for their over-consumption by giving innocent names to their drinks such as "My Medicine" etc. Don't be fooled by pet names given to booze by people who advocate the more drinks the better. Many of them are alcoholics who hate to drink alone.

14. A Wrong Assumption: The assumed connection between adulthood and drinking is strengthened by advertising. Don't make this wrong assumption.

15. The Meaning of Speed Signs: Too many people think of speed signs as an infringement of their civil rights. All speed signs are an indication of the amount of danger you are about to encounter. The lower the speed, the greater the risk involved in that particular area. The more congestion, the more vehicles, the more cross traffic, the poorer the highway design, inclement weather, and no center divider, the greater the risk. Speed signs are there to warn you of impending danger. They are not a challenge to beat the system.

16. Unsafe Speed for Conditions: Don't drive over your head. If the weather is so bad that you can't see the road, or the road conditions are extremely dangerous due to ice, snow, water, fog, or smoke, slow down. If the speed limit is 50 mph and the visibility is only 40 feet, you should not be going faster than 5 mph. Use your own common sense while driving.

17. High Speed Crash Testing: Vehicle manufacturers who build vehicles for high speeds, in excess of 85 mph, should be required to submit these vehicles to the Federal Government for top-speed tests. The vehicle should be run into a concrete wall at its top speed and a like vehicle should be given a top-speed spin-out-roll test at top speed. There should be mandatory filming of these tests to be used exclusively in government safety advertising which would be shown on television and used in driver education classes. Manufacturer names should be conspicuously displayed during the top-speed crash testing.

18. Young Drivers 15-24: All States should institute tough policies against drivers in this age bracket since motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death in this category. People in this age bracket who show they are irresponsible should not be given driver's licenses and if they insist on driving without a driver's license they should be jailed. Serving time in jail is much cheaper than paying for the damage caused by irresponsible drivers.

19. Living "Goofballs": Too many young people idolize certain Hollywood personalities that are "Far Out" or "Way Out" and acting stupid is their main occupation. Too many of these "Goofballs" play in shows that create the idea that fun has to do with being irresponsible and being stupid is a ticket to be in the "In Crowd." It is extremely difficult to tell a young person his idol (God to him) has a profound negative affect on his life that may end up killing him. Often times a young person acting foolish with a car has wound up dead at the expense of being stupid. Having a sense of humor and being stupid are two entirely different traits.

20. Circle Check: Checking your car over once a month only takes a few minutes of your time and it may save your life. Pay close attention to the tires. Check the lights, horn, brakes, hand brake, windshield wipers, head rests, seat belts and the steering. Make periodic checks under the hood to insure you have plenty of oil, transmission fluid, coolant, brake fluid, windshield wash and power steering fluid. Make sure your car is running right so you don't stall out in traffic. Do not hesitate to have your car checked over by a qualified mechanic if you suspect something is wrong. Make safety a habit.

21. The Danger of Using Drink Charts: The current publicity of drunk driving has caused a great many people to search out drink charts in order to find out how many drinks they can have without going over the legal limit. The problem here is that many people are affected below the legal limit. Many experts state that any quantity of alcohol affects the brain and inhibits our thought processes. Alcohol affects everyone differently. Don't gamble with your life and the lives of those around you by trying to beat the rap. You might not be legally drunk but you could end up being legally and permanently dead.

22. Cars of the Future: The most important fact about the cars of the future is they will be weaker in construction in order to give greater fuel economy. Do not be fooled by their style or their exotic space-age computer systems. By 1990 it is expected there will be an additional 5000 more traffic fatalities due to weaker vehicle construction.

23. One Inch Equals One (1) MPH: In reconstructing vehicle crashes from front end collisions the rule is one inch of damage equals 1 mph. This means the weaker the vehicle, the lesser amount of impact your vehicle will absorb and the more amount of impact your body will have to absorb. Amazingly enough those additional few inches add up to more mph that add up to more deaths. Those cute little cars are going to kill a lot of nice people.

24. Broadside Collisions: The weakest point in your vehicle for taking an impact from another vehicle and creating death or injury is the driver/passenger door area. All the more reason to look both ways even if you have the green light. A green light does not guarantee that a drunk driver is going to respect your right-of-way. You can have the right-of-way and still end up dead.

25. Uniformity in Bumper Height: The next time you are riding down the road or walking down a line of cars and trucks, pay close attention to the bumper height and shape on each vehicle. You will notice quite a difference in style, shape, and height. The question you have to ask yourself here is how would each of these bumpers match up with your own bumper? What would be the result of a collision between your car and each of these cars? Some of these bumpers might slide under your bumper and some of them might slide over your bumper with the end result being no protection from your own bumper, resulting in increased damage and/or serious injury or death to you or your family. Pay close attention to the size and strength of your bumper when purchasing a new or used car. Do not be fooled by style. Always ask questions as to the car's durability.

26. Poor Visibility: Turn on your headlights during periods of poor visibility. Even if it is the daylight hours, during a rain storm or periods of poor visibility you should turn on your headlights. Make you and your car more visible. Too many people subconsciously associate their car lights with their electric bill and try to conserve energy by not turning on their headlights. This type of conservation can get you killed. The more visible you are on the highway the less likely you are to become a fatality.

27. Part-time Drivers: Did you hear about the man who got run over by a train as he was driving down the road peeling an orange...he was too busy to see the flashing lights at the railroad crossing; the man who reached down to pick up a napkin off the floor and ran into a guard railing at 50 mph; the woman who was too busy looking at produce and ran head-on into an oncoming car and killed her best friend who was riding with her; the young mother who was tuning her radio and ran into the down railroad crossing arms, demolished her windshield and almost blinded her five-year-old son; the thirteen-year-old boy whose parents bought him his first dirt bike because it was the "In Toy" of this modern age. He missed seeing a cable strung across a private driveway. It stopped him and his motorcycle. His helmet couldn't stop the force of the impact from giving him a brain concussion. I found him in a pool of blood. Did you read about the student who was reading his homework in commute traffic and ran into the back of the car in front of him, causing injury to himself and two other people; the well-respected genius who fell asleep at the wheel, ran into a light pole and killed himself? Not one of these incidents was in the least funny! All of the above people were sober and not on drugs. Driving is a full-time job that requires your 100% undivided attention.

28. Seat Belts + Sensationalized Automobile Fires on Television: There is a fear of using seat belts and being trapped in an automobile fire and being burned alive. Many people who do not use seat belts say they fear their belts might jam on impact and they will be trapped. They see it on television all the time. There is a vivid subconscious picture planted in their mind by television sensationalism. Automobile fires are rare except for what you see on T.V. People seldom die in automobile fires. Most people who die in automobile fires were probably knocked unconscious on impact because they were not wearing their seat belts.

29. Scissors: If you fear being trapped by your seat belt you should purchase a good sturdy pair of scissors and place them in your first-aid kit. Fasten the first-aid kit down in a location that is in view and within reach of the driver and front-seat passenger. If you ever become trapped, use the scissors to cut yourself free.

30. Do Not Stop Near a Freeway On-Ramp: There is an increased risk by stopping near a freeway on-ramp. The problem here is that drivers merging onto the freeway are looking left watching traffic and looking for a safe place to merge. Often times this is a difficult task for even a sober driver. A drunk driver can be more than a triple threat in locations such as these.

31. Coffee Won't Sober You Up: Don't create an "Alert Drunk Driver" by attempting to sober up people you know by giving them coffee. Coffee does not rid your system of alcohol. The body disposes of the alcohol in your system in two ways: (1) Elimination: Saliva, breath, and urine -- about 10%. (2) Oxidation in the liver -- about 90%. Your body burns off alcohol at a constant rate of 0.015 percent per hour of the alcohol concentration. Remember too that different kinds of alcoholic beverages are absorbed into the system at different rates.

32. How to Bring about Change: You can do your part in the War Against Drunk Drivers by helping to change the public attitude about drinking and driving. You can eliminate words from your vocabulary such as "Accident" and "One For The Road" and replace them with words like "Traffic Collision" and "None For The Road." With your help we can eliminate the Socially Acceptable Murder Attitude.

33. Illegal Liquor Sales: Report businesses and bars that sell liquor to minors. The law is there for a purpose. Alcohol-related traffic collisions are the number one cause of death and injury for ages 15-24.

34. Juvenile Booze Parties: If you know of locations where juvenile booze parties are held, report them to your local police. Juveniles often search out "Secret Hideaways" in the big wide open country away from the community in order to enjoy their so-called "Big Time." The problem comes when they attempt to drive home afterwards. They often end up killing themselves or their friends.

35. Coming of Legal Age: "Now I can go out and drink all I want!" This is another fatal mistake made by too many young people. Alcohol-related traffic collisions are the number one cause of death and injury for ages 21-24. Our social norms have created consistent younger generations that have made the same mistake since the automobile came of age in the early 1900's. Coming of legal age means you have the adult responsibility of caring for yourself and respecting the rights of those around you.

NEVER FORGET THAT DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE LAWS ALSO INCLUDE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ANY ILLEGAL DRUG OR PRESCRIBED DRUG ALONE, OR IN COMBINATION WITH ALCOHOL.

36. Illegal Drugs: Using or not using illegal drugs is the true test to how many brains you have in your head. Getting high because everyone else is getting high is a very flimsy excuse used by less intelligent people to get lesser intelligent people to buy drugs. Most smart people are getting high these days by jogging or participating in some other kind of sport. Killing your body with drugs is never the answer. Look around you at the wasted individuals who once showed so much promise and are now having a difficult time trying to tie their shoes. Learn from their sad experience. Don't think your experience with drugs will be any different. Starting the use of any ilegal drug is usually the greatest mistake of all.

37. Drugs...Drugs...Drugs!: Know as much as you can about the prescription drugs that you are taking. Ask questions of your doctor concerning how your specific drug may affect your driving ability. When in doubt, do not drive when on drugs. Do not mix your drugs with alcohol. Do not think drivers on drugs are not as dangerous as drunk drivers. Anything that affects the brain or central nervous system lessens your chances of survival on the highway.

38. "Switcheroo": Drunk drivers are full of tricks. One of the most favored of all is to switch drivers when stopped by the police. A good (dishonest) attorney can make the cops look like liars in the eyes of the jury. "Not guilty because there was some element of doubt due to conflicting statements of the drunk driver and the cops."

39. "Ye Ole Ladies Restroom Caper": "Barroom Buddies" of drunk drivers have been known to hide drunk drivers who are fleeing from the police for hit-and-run in the restrooms of bars. If you are a police officer looking for a male drunk driver, be sure to check the ladies room too. "The cops will never think of checking in here." Knock first...if a lady answers...wait...she may be hiding and covering for the suspect...after all the ladies are out...check all the stalls...he may be standing on a toilet.

40. The Two Greatest Fears: (1) Waking up some morning and coming to the realization that your child was killed by a drunk driver. (2) Not waking up one morning and finding out the world was destroyed by a nuclear war.

41. Fear As a Motivating Factor: It is sad to admit that fear is a motivating factor this day and age when technology is so advanced, but it is a reality. People fear going to jail for drunk driving, they are exercising caution as to how much they drink for fear of going to jail and the fatality rate is coming down. The reality in California is the new laws are working. Preliminary estimates show a 13% reduction in alcohol-related crashes for the nation as a whole.

42. Setting the Example: Set an example for your children by not drinking at all or learning to control your drinking. Teach your child that because someone else drinks or because a vast majority of people drink does not certify approval of drinking. Alcohol abuse can destroy your health, your family, and your potential for achievement in life.

43. Faceless Statistics: Statistics are an extremely poor measure of what has occurred because statistics tend to lose all human qualities. Each number adding up to the 250,000 killed in the past ten years had a face. Each face was capable of love, affection, and contributing some good into the world. Do not wait until a face you know and love is killed by a drunk driver before you become involved.

44. Freeway Driving: The four most serious violations concerning freeway driving are:

    1. Drunk Driving.
    2. Speeding.
    3. Unsafe lane changes.
    4. Following too closely.

If you have sloppy driving habits when you are sober, as a drunk driver things are going to get a whole lot worse. Drunk drivers kill people with bad driving habits. If you are a social drinker (occasional drinking) and you have bad driving habits, a few social drinks could cause you to lose the quick reaction edge necessary for survival. You may not react fast enough to a traffic emergency.

45. The Road Belongs to Everyone: Many people occupy a space on the highway just as a wild animal dominates certain boundaries. They are called road hogs because they lack the common sense and the courtesy that goes with being a good driver. They tailgate and cut you off at the drop of a hat. Sooner or later they are usually involved in a rear-end collision while attempting to protect their territory. Don't be a road hog. Be courteous to all motorists and save yourself an ulcer in the process.

46. How Do You Drive Within Your Own Block?: Most people are more cautious when driving within their own block because they care about their neighbors. They have to live in the area and they respect their neighbors' rights. Two blocks from home they drive like maniacs. This includes a good many mothers who complain about all the speeders on their street. If everyone would drive all the time like they drive within their own block we wouldn't have half the problems that we have. Respect all your neighbors' rights even if they live one hundred miles away.

47. Small Cars and BIG TRUCKS: Recent laws and current trends are making cars smaller and trucks bigger. This in addition to weaker automobile bumpers all add up to jeopardizing your safety. Does the public want to be exploited for $ profit at the expense of injury and death? Write your congressman and advocate safer cars and smaller trucks.

48. W C M: Political maneuvering by politicians and bureaucrats in order to make $ Money $ for BIG BUSINESS is White Collar Murder when it comes to automobile safety.

49. Vehicle Manufacturers are Still Cutting Down on the Weight of their Vehicles. They are doing this in order to meet the Federally mandated standard of 27.7 miles-per-gallon by 1985. By decreasing engine size they could cut the vehicle weight, save gas, and insure passenger safety by not cutting the weight of the protective shell that protects the passengers.

50. Jumping the Gun on the Green Light: Many people have the habit of trying to be the first one through the signal after the light turns from red to green. This is an extremely dangerous habit. You should always remember that drunk drivers with slow reactions are often times a second too late in trying to stop for a red light. Jumping the gun on a green light is like running in front of a loaded gun during target practice.

51. Head Sets: More and more people are sacrificing their safety for pleasure by using head sets. The ability to hear approaching danger should not be sacrificed for pleasure when you are in or near traffic.

52. Planning Your Safe Route of Travel: If you have a choice of driving on a divided highway as opposed to a two-way undivided highway, you should take the divided highway. Why? Head-on collisions in many, many instances are extremely difficult, if not impossible, to avoid and they are by far the more dangerous type of collision. Head-on collisions occur much more frequently on two-way undivided highways and kill more people.

53. Head Rests: Head rests should be adjusted to a height even to the middle of the back of the head in order to avoid whip-lash and/or breaking your neck in the event of a rear-end collision. They also afford protection from other types of impact. Head rests are intended to reduce death and injury.

54. Station Wagon Play Land: Many people purchase station wagons in order to give their restless children plenty of room to play in. "Hate to take the children on a long trip by being cooped up in a small car." Don't take chances with your children's lives by allowing them to ride in an area intended for cargo that does not afford passenger protection. Belt all of your children into their seats.

55. Sobriety Checkpoints: Sobriety checkpoints in the State of Delaware that were used to check for drunk drivers resulted in a 40% reduction of alcohol-related traffic fatalities. Cooperating with law enforcement by giving up a few minutes of your time at a roadside to check for drunk drivers is your insurance your family will stay alive on the highway. Please support legislation for sobriety checkpoints.

56. Open Spaces: Riding in the back of a pick-up truck or any open-aired vehicle that does not provide for adequate passenger protection can be extremely dangerous. Vehicles and areas of vehicles that lack seat belts, protective cover for the head and padding to absorb the shock of collision impact are exceedingly dangerous to life and limb.

57. Hydroplaning: Hydroplaning is when your vehicle loses traction on a wet roadway. It is a combination of speed, water, weight, and tires that creates this condition. Your vehicle can hydroplane at 50 mph and even lower speeds. It all depends on the existing conditions. It is wise not to travel at speeds in excess of 50 mph during any rainy days.

58. Freezing Conditions: If you are traveling in an area where freeze conditions exist it is wise to travel at low speeds when water is present on the roadway. When ice forms on the roadway, you are traveling under extremely dangerous conditions. A patch of ice can cause you to lose traction and send you sliding off the roadway. Icy conditions are extremely dangerous in mountainous areas. This is where flash feezing may occur. The hazard is increased at night due to increased freezing and decreased visibility.

59. Monotonous Safety and the Inability to Listen: We all get tired of hearing the same safety slogans over and over again. After awhile we tend to tune out what we have heard. Do not tune out safety reminders. Use them to your advantage by taking the opportunity to examine your own driving habits. Don't wait for the local traffic cop to give you a ticket before you brush up on your driving habits. Learn to listen for safety sake.

60. Growing Old: Growing old is going to happen to everyone. Be considerate of elderly drivers. Be patient with them. Most elderly drivers are good drivers. However, some elderly drivers, whose driving ability is impaired due to old age, do not know when to retire from driving or they don't have someone they can depend on to drive them around when they need transportation to the doctor or for groceries. If you see an elderly driver who is a menace on the road, please report them to your local police so they can take the appropriate action (reexamination by the Department of Motor Vehicles to determine if they should have a driver's license). Your concern may save their life or the life of someone else. Another alternative is to adopt an elderly person, be a friend, and provide transportation for them.

61. Open Containers in Passenger Vehicles: Do not condone drinking alcoholic beverages while driving down the road. It isn't "Macho." It is "Dumb." Don't try to impress people by drinking and driving. If you should consider riding with someone who insists on drinking and driving, DON'T.

62. Families of Drunk Drivers: When a drunk driver kills or injures someone his family suffers too. "I: I would have done this" or "If I had only said that" are famous last words for families of alcoholics and drunk drivers. You have to live with what you failed to do if one of your loved ones goes out and injures or kills someone while drunk driving and you could have taken some kind of action to have prevented the tragedy. Your preventive action to avert the tragedy should start now, not tomorrow or next week. Give one of the many organizations or agencies dealing with the alcohol problem a call for assistance.

63. History Looking Back from the Year 2000: The thing that will puzzle Americans most in the year 2000 is how Americans driving drunk killed other Americans and got away with it for so long.

64. Driving Home After Work: One of the most dangerous times of the day is when everyone gets off work and is in a hurry to get home and/or to some other destination. People are tired and their patience is very thin. Too many fatalities occur between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. In a hurry..tired...busy thinking about the events of a bad day...a couple of drinks after work...thinking about what has to be done before the day is done...not as alert as you were in the morning... Don't be in a hurry when you get off work and show a whole lot of patience...it may get you home alive.

65. Do Not Drive Alongside of BIG TRUCKS Unless You Absolutely Have To. BIG TRUCKS account for 6% of the nation's highway crashes and 12% of all fatal crashes. REPEATING! Cars are getting smaller and BIG TRUCKS are getting BIGGER, thus the risk is increasing for the smaller cars and cars in general. Please keep in mind that BIG TRUCKS need more stopping distance and they cannot accelerate or turn suddenly in order to avoid an emergency. Do not assume that the truck driver sees you. BIG TRUCKS have blind spots on both sides of the truck so avoid driving alongside.

66. That 95%: 95% of all drivers think they are good drivers. Most of the drivers who were killed this year and in the last ten years thought they were good drivers. Not one of those good drivers who was killed because of drunk drivers or drunk driving ever thought he/she would end up in a coffin and never see another sunrise or sunset. Death moves swiftly in the world of drunk drivers. They are a reality that has to be reckoned with because they kill too many Americans.

67. The Solution: 1) The best and the safest solution if you drink alcoholic beverages and/or use drugs is DO NOT DRIVE! 2) If you insist on drinking and driving then you should determine what your limitations are by using scientific data. This means reading up on the subject and determining what a reasonable safe blood level for you would be. Decide what your limit is and stick to it. Use good common sense but always remember the experts who say any amount of alcohol affects the brain.

FATIGUE + ALCOHOL DO NOT MIX.

ALCOHOL + DRUGS DO NOT MIX.

FATIGUE + DRUGS DO NOT MIX.

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D R I N K C H A R T

HOW MANY IS TOO MANY ?

BODY WEIGHT	SAFE	REASONABLY SAFE	ALCOHOL HIGH	ILLEGAL AMOUNT
90	0	1	2	3
100	0	1	2	3
110	0	1	2	3
120	0	1	2	4
130	0	1	2	4
140	0	2	3	4
150	0	2	DANGER — 3 — 100%	4
160	0	2	3	5
170	0	2	3 — RISK	5
180	0	2	3	5
190	0	2	ZONE — 3 — INCREASE	5
200	0	2	3	6
210	0	3	4	6
220	0	3	4	6
230	0	3	4	6
240	0	3	4	7
250	0	3	4	7
260	0	3	4	8

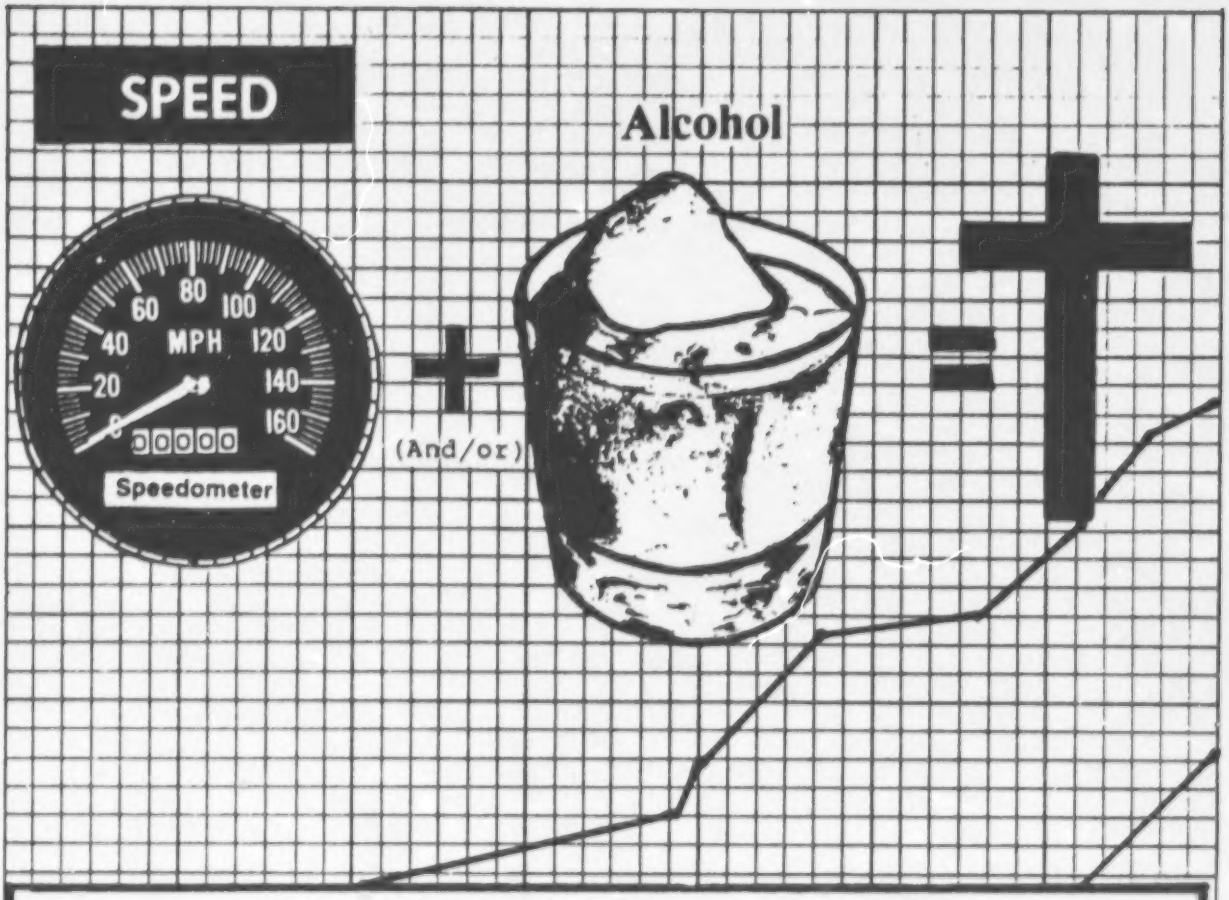
REASONABLY SAFE means below .05....ALCOHOL HIGH means .049 or near .05....and the ILLEGAL AMOUNT is .10 and above. Driving is considered to be impaired from .05 to .09 and can result in a conviction for driving while under the influence of alcohol.

A STRONG WORD OF CAUTION ABOUT DRINK CHARTS ! Each and every individual is different and there are many variables with each and every situation. The ALCOHOL HIGH and the LEGAL AMOUNT (From 0.01 to 0.049) allow for a "PEAK" and a "TOLERANCE." The problem here is that you could experience a maximum high from alcohol and still be legally sober, yet wind up permanently dead. Even one drink is often times too much. It all depends on the individual and the variables. i.e. Physical condition, fatigue, previous drinking experience, food in the stomach, type of drink, etc. DRINK CHARTS ARE ONLY INTENDED TO BE USED AS A GUIDE. THEY CONTAIN NO GUARANTEES.

The above figures represent the total number of drinks for each hour. Deduct one drink from the total number of drinks for each hour that elapsed between the first and last drink.

A drink is defined as one ounce of 100 proof of "Hard Liquor" (bourbon, rum, vodka, gin, etc.) or twelve ounces of 4% beer or three ounces of fortified wine.

WARNING !...Most mixed drinks and straight drinks served are in excess of one (1) ounce of alcohol. Premixed sealed cocktails and beer that you purchase have a premeasured set amount of alcohol in them. THE BEST RULE IS...IF YOU DRINK...DO NOT DRIVE!



SHOCKING STATISTICS

26,000 Alcohol-Related Fatalities Annually in the U.S.

Over 275,000 drinking drivers are arrested and taken to jail annually in the State of California.

Drunk drivers and drinking drivers are involved in one-half of all fatal traffic collisions and one-fourth of all injury collisions in the State of California.

Drunk drivers are involved in approximately 55% of the traffic collisions across the nation.

There were 23,000 speed-related fatalities mixed in with the alcohol-related fatalities in 1982. And, over 8,000,000 speeding tickets were issued for exceeding the 55 mph speed limit.

C O N C L U S I O N

The United States has a monumental problem with alcohol abuse. The problem is compounded by the fact that we have a machoistic, ambitious, materialistic, apathetic, competitive, and uneducated population.

When all "DRINKING DRIVERS" come to the realization that they are in fact part of the alcohol problem, lives will be saved. People killed by drunk drivers aren't killed by brutal sadistic "Jack-the-Ripper" type killers, they are killed by "AVERAGE LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS." Being a "NICE FUN-LOVING CITIZEN" is not an excuse for getting away with MURDER.

BIG BUSINESS has to wake up and assist the government in solving the problem.

The Criminal Justice System needs an overhaul and a large-scale educational operation has to be undertaken in order to educate the public...a concentrated National Educational Effort needs to be aimed at the youth of our Nation.

Change can be brought about by CONSTANT PERSISTENCE over the next twenty years. There has to be a CONSTANT effort and a CONSTANT pressure placed on the courts and the people. PERSISTENCE means keeping the public's attention focused on this problem. PERSISTENCE is the key to solving the DRUNK DRIVING HOLOCAUST.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert R. Penkivich is a native of Michigan. He obtained an AA degree from Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, California and a BA degree in Criminal Justice from Sacramento State University. He was an Officer with the California Highway Patrol in the San Francisco Bay area from May 1966 until January 1983, and has written one book entitled "Murder III - Drunk Driving." He is currently working on a third book on drunk driving.

This book (second book) is based upon his experiences as a patrolman working with the victims, drunk drivers, courts, attorneys, district attorneys, doctors, nurses, ambulance personnel, firemen, and other officers. Most of the information has to do with the victims and ways to prevent a reoccurrence of what happened to those victims. He promised some of the victims he encountered during his career that someday he would write about the Drunk Driving Holocaust. Almost all of the blood bath taking place on our highways today is preventable.

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